

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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Eccliaistical Affairs.

A WORD ON BEHALF OF THE IRISH CHURCH.

THE thoughtful and statesmanlike speech of Mr. Bright at Limerick will, we trust, suggest to those who take a religious interest in the disestablishment and disendowment of the Anglican Church in Ireland, that their whole duty will not have been discharged when Parliament, at the bidding of the constituent bodies of the United Kingdom, shall have severed the link which connects that ecclesiastical community with the Civil Power, and shall have resumed, with a view to a wiser and juster appropriation of it, the property from which it derives its means of temporal support. These things, unquestionably, will have to be done, and the more thoroughly they are done the better. But everyone whose heart is in the right place will be aware that ends which are just in themselves may be prosecuted in a spirit so inconsiderate, and with a temper so unfeeling, as to inflict no little injustice upon those at whose expense they must in the main be effected. There is danger lest this should be the case with our Irish policy—lest the force of will necessary to put down a legalised religious ascendancy should be so great as to make us forget that with that force of will there ought also to be displayed a tenderness of sympathy with the body to be deposed from its unnatural and harmful position, and a kindly and helpful manner of dealing with it. The friends of religious equality will but half do their work if they do not so do it as to leave as little soreness behind as possible.

Mr. Gladstone's policy will be, under any conceivable circumstances, a painful one for the members of the Irish Church; but there is not only no necessity, there is neither justice nor expediency, in applying it as if it were one of retribution. It ought not in any sense to be penal, at any rate as far as the motives and efforts of its abettors are concerned. It may be likened to a severe surgical operation, in which the most delicate handling is as loudly called for as unflinching decision. The wounds which are made must also be bound up. The Church which, after all, has been but a too willing instrument of the vicious policy of the State, ought not, because the State has discovered its mistake, to be thrown at once upon the helplessness which its position has fostered. Somebody or other ought to care for it in its

novel circumstances, to minister comfort to it, to wrap it round with a sensibly warm affection, to tend it assiduously through its days of weakness, and to let it see that it is not abandoned. If, for example, the English hierarchy, instead of fighting to the last against the inevitable, were to begin the better and more useful work of preparing for it—if, instead of busying themselves in obstructing a great act of national justice, they were to take steps towards averting its painful consequences—if, knowing as they must know, that the Irish Church must soon become a voluntary church, they were to engage not to desert her when the appointed hour of trial comes, and were now to devise plans by which the Protestantism of this country might be induced to contribute of its wealth towards the support of the institution which has so long, and so unfortunately, represented Protestantism in the sister isle—they might make the transition of the Anglican community from dependence on State favour and public endowments to self-reliance and Christian willingness well nigh painless. Perhaps, indeed, they are secretly taking counsel with a view to this consummation. Certainly, it were devoutly to be wished that they should do so. In that case, however, they would most likely see, what most other people see, that it is cruel to encourage a resistance which, besides being ineffectual, will but increase the humiliation, the suffering, and the helplessness consequent on eventual defeat.

At this crisis, especially, it behoves the friends of religious equality to exert themselves to the utmost—first, to prevent our statesmen, as far as possible, from displaying tenderness and indulgence to the Irish Church in an unwise direction—and, secondly, to stimulate and instruct the British people in regard to the obligation which will rest upon them when Parliament shall have achieved the work it has commenced. If it would do any real and permanent good to the Anglicans in Ireland, without at the same time tending to frustrate the object of national conciliation, we believe there would be no indisposition on the part of Liberationists to make them a present of the whole of the ecclesiastical property now in their possession. They have consented to their retention of so much of it as may be required to satisfy personal and vested interests, and they have done so ungrudgingly. They have gone further. They have acquiesced in leaving in the hands of the Irish Church all the national ecclesiastical edifices of which she can make a proper use, and several other means of accommodation which will serve to give her a fair start as a voluntary organisation. It is to be hoped that the Government and the Parliament that will be called upon to settle the details of the policy of impartial disendowment, will see the wisdom of not carrying these concessions to weakness to an injurious extent. It will be no kindness to a Church in the circumstances of the Protestant Church of Ireland, to tempt her to distrust her own ability to sustain her position. A small endowment will suffice to stop the outflow of spontaneous beneficence—a large one will stifle spiritual energy. She must be taught to walk alone. She must be trained to develop her internal life in action. Help her by all means in every way which may stimulate her to self-help. She will be, or ought to be, an essentially missionary Church. The way to assist her, as such, will be to lead her gently forward to independence of a fixed

revenue. Spite of Mr. Matthew Arnold, and his preference of Hellenism to Hebraism, experience does not encourage the system of endowments for religious purposes. We cannot go into a discussion of the question just now. We did so in a series of articles some three or four years ago, and we thought we gave intelligible, if not sufficient, reasons for our "fetish." Mr. Arnold dwells too high up in the region of self-complacency to attend to any argument of ours. That is no proof, however, that he is qualified to spit contempt upon our conclusions. But we must not let him draw us aside from our purpose.

What the Irish Church when disestablished and disendowed will require is that moral countenance, sympathy and succour which will invigorate the best qualities of her character. She is about to enter upon a novel sphere, not of her own choice, but because necessity compels. To some extent she may be aided by pecuniary contributions—to some extent by friendly guidance—but above all by recognising her distress, by feelingly entering into her troubles, by soothing her perturbation, by allaying her apprehensions, by stimulating her fortitude, by strengthening her faith, and by nurturing her self-respect. This duty, whoever else may overlook, will not, we trust, be neglected by the friends of religious equality. The petted child when it goes away from home, though not entitled to indulgence in all its humours, has a claim to thoughtful consideration. We should give it to the Irish Church with as much cordiality as we should were she suffering under real, instead of imaginary persecution—and our only fear is lest the avowed friends of her social and political ascendancy should leave her, when her fate is determined, to the exclusive care of the voluntary bodies.

ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

THE Order Book of the House of Commons for to-day contains the following:—

- Church-rates Abolition Bill (Mr. Hardcastle), Second Reading.
- Church-rates Regulation Bill (Mr. Hubbard), Second Reading.
- Church-rates Commutation Bill (Mr. Newdegate), Second Reading.
- Compulsory Church-rates Abolition Bill—Consideration of Lords' Amendments.

We quote these Notices at length, because, in all probability, it will be the last time that any of them will appear in the official records of either branch of the Legislature. Here the Parliamentary history of the Church-rate question will end. The fates of the four different Bills whose titles we have given will, we imagine, be somewhat as follows:—Mr. Hardcastle's will be willingly withdrawn; Mr. Hubbard and Mr. Newdegate will be compelled to withdraw the measures which stand in their names; and it is not difficult to predict that the hon. members will deliver somewhat melancholy, if not sepulchral, orations upon the burial of their respective offsprings. Such manifestations of grief are only natural, and should be treated with forbearance and tenderness. But both Mr. Hubbard and Mr. Newdegate are Churchmen who embody a high type of personal religious feeling. Their regret at the failure of their efforts to settle this question in accordance with their own views will be a sincere and conscientious regret. But we feel assured that, if they live to the allotted length of human life they will rejoice in these failures. The "Compulsory Church-rates Abolition Bill,"

which stands last in the list, will not require any mover. It comes down to the Commons in a very different shape from that in which it left that body. Those who originated this certainly skilful measure may naturally regret some of the alterations that have been made in it; but we have sufficient knowledge of Mr. Gladstone's personal unselfishness to warrant us in expressing the conviction that he will allow the Lords' Amendments to pass without any obstructive opposition. And then the House of Commons will finally dispose of the Church-rate question.

An article in the current number of the *Edinburgh Review*, on the "National Church," has attracted a degree of attention which the articles of the *Edinburgh* seldom enough now receive. The cause of this notoriety certainly does not lie in the ability of the article in question, which, although equal to, is not above the average writing of most of our periodical literature. It lies in the fact that the *Edinburgh* has, upon the question of the Irish Church, forsaken its old party allegiance, and gone over straight to the enemy. It would not be correct to say that such an article might have appeared in the *Quarterly*, because the *Quarterly* is identified with High Church politics, and this paper is evidently the production of a Broad Churchman. It is characterised, throughout, by that plausible predominance of sentiment, but fatal absence of correct reasoning, which we have before noticed as the intellectual mark of the Broad Church party. There is still that constant harping upon "national" religion, and that exaggerated description of the happy social effects of Church Establishments, which are seldom absent from Broad Church treatises upon this subject. The writer—whom it would be impertinence to designate by name, although it is now scarcely necessary to do so—still clings to the Irish Church as an expression of "national religion," and defends it in consequence through thick and thin. We are unfeignedly sorry to read, from such a pen, the small and spiteful ebullitions against voluntarism, both English and American, which are contained in this article. It will, however, not do the work which it is intended to do. The best portion of the Broad Church clergy have already accepted the principle of disestablishment; and neither High Churchmen nor Evangelicals could accept this paper as a defence of their views. Indeed, the *John Bull* already describes it as "a wonderful instance of Whig fallacies, interspersed with sounder views, imperatively demanded by Whig necessities," and says that, "while it accepts its conclusions, it totally rejects its premises." We should be disposed ourselves to say that this article could have obtained admission into the *Edinburgh* only as the result of pressure used by very high personages.

A few years ago Church Defence Societies and Committees of Laymen were, like the pillars of a falling edifice, studding the land. They did the precise work that it was often said, in these columns, they would do; that is to say, they so precipitated the Church and State controversy as to make it comparatively easy to carry it on from the Anti-State-Church point of attack. We are now informed that one gigantic society is to do all that these societies did not succeed in doing. There is formed a "Church and State Defence Society," in behalf of which Archdeacon Denison makes a powerful appeal in the last number of the *John Bull*. We quote two or three sentences from this appeal, which are worth reading, from their singular historical truthfulness. The Archdeacon sees what Mr. Cobden saw, that the Nonconformists are the seed of the Liberal party,—

"Of those who wish the assault [on the Establishment] to succeed there are, first, the men who see in the success the consummation of the hopes and the struggles of many generations. The Nonconformists religious. Second: there are the Nonconformists political. All questions between the two great parties which, under different names, more or less intelligible and definite, divide the opinion of this country, resolve themselves ultimately into the question of Establishment. "Liberalism" had its birth in Nonconformity. Nonconformity, expressed or implied, is its life. "Liberals" are either Nonconformists, or Churchmen who are, in effect, on the Nonconformist side. So far as the House of Commons is concerned, Nonconformity proper has merged its religious character in its political character; and though there are among Churchmen on the Nonconformist side some who persuade themselves that what they do is "for the Church's good," there are many more who look no further than the political and party issue, and who are content that the assault should succeed, without caring much about the religious issue involved in it, because it is the only basis upon which it is any longer possible to reunite the scattered forces of the "Liberal" party.

But the archdeacon believes the majority of the people of England are in favour of a State Church, and he thinks that what is wanted is "to collect and present under one united form of expression" the judgment

of that majority. This is the way in which the work is to be done:—

It is for this purpose that the Church and State Defence Society commences its operations with issuing to every incumbent or officiating minister and to all churchwardens an address to the Crown, with a circular letter praying them to lay it before the parishioners for general signature. The society is not, as some have either carelessly or studiously represented it to be, only one more organisation for purposes already contemplated. It occupies ground not before filled, and which it is necessary to fill in order to any worthy and sufficient defence of "Church and State."

This reminds us that there was also, at one time, a Churchwardens' Society, which dropped out of existence with the Laymen and others. But all these societies were once wiser in their generation than the "Church and State Defence," and knew better how to conduct a popular agitation. Just suppose that this Liberation Society had commenced its work by an address to the Crown! Just suppose that this had been thought to be the right way of commencing an agitation! But the "Church and State Defence" will no doubt aid us quite as much as did the Laymen and the "Defenders," and therefore we hail its formation.

Dr. Maziers Brady, the Irish clergyman whose drastic exposure of the historical and statistical errors of Dr. Lee and the Irish Ecclesiastical Commissioners, have formed a conspicuous feature of the Irish Church controversy, writes to the *Clerical Journal* a letter which, besides adding to the facts about the Irish Church, puts one argument in the most pointed of all forms. It is as follows:—

There is a question relating to the vested interests of laymen in Church revenues which demands the calm consideration of Churchmen. Clergymen evidently possess a valid claim to their incomes for their lives. But to whom do the vested interests, which remain after compensating the clergy, belong? Take, for instance, the 199 parishes in Ireland which have no Anglican inhabitants. The revenue of these parishes amount to 13,000*l.* per annum. The area of these parishes extends over 557,000 acres. The population consists of 98,000 Roman Catholics and ninety-eight Dissenters. There is not a single Anglican, and there is no reason to suppose that Anglican divine service was ever performed in any one of these parishes since the Reformation. What laymen have an equitable claim to be considered as having a vested interest in the ecclesiastical revenues of these parishes? Before the Reformation, the Roman Catholics in those parishes were in the enjoyment of those revenues, and the ruins of Roman Catholic churches are yet remaining in many of them in evidence of the uses to which anciently those revenues were applied. If parochial revenues belong to parishioners, and all the parishioners happen to be Roman Catholics, on that principle of Christian ethics can persons not parishioners set up a claim to those revenues?

We commend this letter to the especial consideration of the *Edinburgh Review* writer, whose reverence for the parochial theory is quite beyond—we'll say appreciation.

We referred last week, in our news columns, to the discussion in the French Chamber on the Budget of Public Worship originated by M. Ollivier. We have since met with—in the valuable Paris correspondence of the *Guardian*—a more complete account of this discussion than has appeared in any other English newspaper. We think it worth while to quote from this speech the portions relating to the separation of Church and State—a question which in one shape or another, is agitating most of the continental nations nearly as much as it is our own. M. Ollivier's object is to see the Catholic Church independent. And this is how it could become so:—

Admit the priesthood to participate in the election of the Bishop; not by reattempting the civil constitution of the clergy, but by acting as you do in the nomination of Professors. The Minister names them, but he demands a presentation from the Councils of Education. So also it is the Minister who names to the bishoprics. Let him, then, assemble, not the parishioners, but the priests of the diocese, and demand of them presentations. The effect would be incalculable; it would work a complete change in the Church, as well as its reconciliation with modern society, and would be the best preparation for receiving or rejecting, without apprehension, those decrees of the Council which might be contrary to modern principles.

But this measure was only transitory:—

The second and definitive measure, in his opinion, was a study of the laws necessary for effecting a separation between Church and State. That separation had already commenced. It would be the beginning of a situation full of peril, and if hurried on, might involve the violent suppression of the salary of the clergy. That salary he regarded as a sacred obligation of the State—just as sacred as the *Grand Livre*, and from which they could not withdraw themselves. His belief was, that the future will see the disappearance of the Budget of Public Worship; but with the spontaneous and free consent of the clergy themselves. A time would come, he said, when the clergy would comprehend that complete liberty such as it exists in America and other countries, even at the price of abandoning the clerical budget, would be an element of power, influence, and force. But as long as the Church did not voluntarily renounce the contract which bound them, they could not, he thought, refuse to fulfil the conditions. A separation, realised not by iniquity, but by law and justice, would be a source of harmony, concord, and peace. It would be the advent of the epoch invoked by so many religious minds: by Dante, Gerson, Roger-

Collard, Chateaubriand, Benjamin Constant; and on the day when the temporal sword should be severed from the pastoral crossier they would see, not a confusion, but an accord, full of promise, between the religious ideal and human reason.

There are few Protestant Nonconformists in England who would not subscribe to such sentiments, advocated in such a spirit. They embody our own creed as well as our own mode of settling the great question. The Minister of Public Worship, M. Baroche, said in his reply that this discussion was full of difficulties, and must be left to the action of time, which would solve it as it had solved other questions. It was a prudent and perhaps a philosophic reply, and time will no doubt work out the solution.

THE BROAD CHURCH THEORY OF A STATE CHURCH.

TO ARTHUR PENRHYN STANLEY, D.D., DEAN OF WESTMINSTER.

LETTER VII.

Sir,—I propose, in this concluding letter, to notice several miscellaneous topics suggested by your address, which have been either wholly passed by or only slightly referred to, in my previous correspondence. I shall endeavour so to arrange what I may say, as to bring into view certain general characteristics of your method of discussion.

In the first place, I have been much struck with the number of *fictitious statements* in which you have indulged. I do not mean statements which are absolutely false or erroneous; but statements, the truth of which is, at best, of a figurative or accommodated description. It is a fiction that the Established Churches of this kingdom are the national churches. It is a fiction that the government of a Church by the State is its government by the nation. It is a fiction that the connection of Church and State answers to the administration of the primitive Church. It is a fiction, that the requirements of the Church of England are measurable by the existing state of the law. This list of fictions could be easily, and almost indefinitely, increased. In fact, the whole of your argument rests upon a fiction; for it is a fiction that the State connected itself with the Church for specifically religious purposes at all. The ends contemplated by that connection were political, and religion was only regarded as a means to such ends. All defences like yours, which put forth the interests of religion as the object aimed at, are unhistorical, and labour under the disadvantage of trying to fit to one purpose what was originally designed for another. I apprehend that when swords are beaten into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks, the implements must be entirely recast. It would be vain to expect that the original sword and spear would either plough or prune. This element of fiction which runs through your exposition is more than suspicious. It is contrary to that simplicity which should govern the treatment of all matters where religion is concerned. The notice of your indulgence in fictitious statements reminds me of the mistakes you have made in the historical parallels you have drawn. I am familiar with your writings, and have very often had occasion to admire the skill with which you can discover and apply a true historical analogy. I always anticipate pleasure and satisfaction from its exercise on your part. Nothing has disappointed me more, in the work I have been reviewing, than the absence of this skill. I have pointed it out in what I have said of the use you have tried to make of the cases of Gallio, and Paul, and Pilate, and the Council of Jerusalem. In these, and in other instances, your cunning forsook you. Forced analogies are scattered throughout your pamphlet. This could not have happened if your theory had been a correct one. You, of all men, would have recommended it by the aptness of the illustrations you advanced in its favour. If you have not done so, it is because the points to which you desired to call attention did not admit of this favourable treatment. When Samson is shorn of his locks we feel that his strength has departed.

Another characteristic of your address is the tone of *apology* it so frequently adopts. It has been already seen that you guard your definition of the connection of Church and State by excluding "endowments," "secular offices of the clergy," and "constant interference of the State,"* that you meet the charge of "worldly influences" by tracing their evil to the "hierarchical constitution of the clergy,"† and that you trace the "social disparagement" you lament to an "ill-understood view of the claims of episcopal succession."‡ You think, too, that the difficulty of a "choice of creed" may be overcome by making the "creed as wide as possible, and by main-

* Stanley's Address, p. 8.

† Stanley's Address, p. 22.

‡ Stanley's Address, p. 26.

taining that which is the creed of the large majority of the nation"; and urge that, "in point of fact, the State has never, strictly speaking, made a choice" of creed "at all."* In these, and other ways, you attempt to relieve the pressure of objections arising from the existing state of things by setting up an ideal condition according to which you would have your theory to be judged. This might be fair, if what you thus apologise for could be removed from the system you defend. But, with very little exception, it cannot. Your argument, indeed, implies that it need not; for you do not say that the connection of Church and State is to be made dependent upon these desirable changes; but, on the contrary, you advocate that connection in spite of the continuance of things as they are. You have thus involved yourself in palpable inconsistencies. In spite of your objection to the hierarchical constitution of the clergy as productive of worldly influences, you approve of the seats of bishops in the House of Lords.† Though you praise your Church for its "elasticity and capacity of growth" in the direction of religious freedom,‡ you also contend that the difficulty of change belonging to it "is on the whole beneficial, especially when as in England there is perfect freedom to retire."§ You represent the "free expression of individual belief" as "indispensable to any healthy development of religious action,"|| while you adhere to the imposition of some form of creed on the part of the State.¶ These contradictions naturally arise from the impossibility of successfully vindicating an institution whose acknowledged wrongs are inherent in its nature. There is one form of apology advanced by you, which, to my mind, is particularly strange. You constantly adduce the practices of other religious bodies by way of showing that they are worse than those of the Church of England. Thus you tell us that the American Churches are less free than English Churches; ** that the resistance to change prevails extensively in Nonconformist communities; †† and that Dr. Packthread, in Mrs. Stowe's novel of "Dred," is as worldly as any Episcopalian clergyman could be. †‡ Sometimes you press this sort of comparison a little too far—as when you say of a departure from unity of doctrine: "But look at the case of Scotland. No Churches have been more torn by disputes on what they believe to be essentials than the Free Churches of Scotland, and yet, outside their own communities, it is impossible for any human being to distinguish or unravel the points on dispute."§§ I should have thought that this impossibility was altogether in favour of the existence of unity, not against it. But granting all you affirm as to the shortcomings of others; is it not remarkable that you should forget that the responsibility in their case is confined to themselves, while it is the purpose of your argument to extend the responsibility in the case of your Church to the people of the country at large? I may smile at the follies of sects with which I have nothing to do; but that forms no reason why I should be required to reconcile myself to similar follies in a Church which professes, without my consent, to take charge of religion in my name.

A third point relating to the manner in which you have conducted your discussion, consists in the tendency of much you have said towards a *Wider Comprehension* than your scheme actually embraces. To this I have already referred; but the place it occupies in your address demands a more direct notice of it on my part. You speak with entire approval of what has been urged against State interference, to the effect that: "It must be latitudinarian; it must, as in Great Britain, recognise the possibility of different forms of Christian belief—as of Presbyterianism in Scotland, Anglicanism in England, Roman Catholicism in Ireland; it must, as in France and Prussia, recognise as national both the Roman Catholic and the Protestant Church."||| I am very far, indeed, from objecting to the widest latitudinarianism provided it is not understood to express the character of my own belief. All other forms of belief have the same right to protection as mine has; but when I concur in this protection, I am so far from compromising my faith by so doing, that I thus support myself in the exercise of such faith as distinguished from that of others. But my faith is compromised when, in the form of a Church system to which I am committed, I make myself responsible for what I deem erroneous. There is an infinite difference between these two things. The latitudinarianism of which I approve, presents the true condition of religious progress; the latitudinarianism

which I repudiate, would be a plain departure from religious fidelity. On the principle of this difference I rejoice in the spread around me of any variety of religious opinions; while I demur to the existence of the same variety within the pale of your Church. In the one case the variety is a sign of religious life; in the other it is a sign of the decay of such life. What is called the comprehensiveness of the Church of England is, I am persuaded, little more than a submission to the influences which, time after time, act upon it from without. As a Church it has no living growth peculiar to itself. When I object to it in the character I am now contemplating, it is not its latitudinarianism to which I look, it is the religious weakness of which its latitudinarianism is the proof. Suppose the theory of comprehension were attempted to be fully carried out. In that case all professions of religion must, without exception, obtain Government support. If this were to happen, what would be the advantage of the plan, over one which withdrew Government support equally from all professions of religion? The equality if applied with justice would have the same political result on one plan as on the other. Suppose the theory of comprehension were only partially carried out. Such bodies as the Roman Catholic, the Wesleyan, the Congregational, and the Presbyterian, would thus be offered endowment. These bodies must be taken as they are. It would be folly, indeed, to imagine that any of them would consent to alter their organisation or administration. What, then, would become of your boasted superiority of a State Church to non-established Churches? All the evils of non-established Churches as you describe them, would be sanctioned and perpetuated; and what you object to in Papal or Protestant discipline, would be added to your own cherished want of discipline. Or do you think that State support would lessen the activity of these different sects? If so, yours is a project for the suppression, not for the encouragement of religion, as religion is understood and appreciated by those whom you would patronise. State the comprehension theory however you may, it only needs to be traced into particulars, in order that some insuperable difficulty connected with it may be exposed.

The last topic on which I wish to make a remark or two is the manner in which you have dealt with the *Religious Influence* proper to a Christian Church. I should have thought that in defending the connection of Church and State you would have specially insisted upon it as a great instrument for promoting the religious life of the country. This however you have not done. You have chiefly set forth its benefit as bearing upon such interests as those of freedom, and learning, and charity. In one passage you seem almost to give into the hands of Nonconformists that evangelical work which brings religion into active contact with the spiritual wants of mankind. "It is," you say, "one of the large debts which we owe to Nonconformists, that they have vindicated in England the sacredness of the individual conscience, the ideal of Christian purity, the noble impetuosity of Christian enthusiasm."** Certainly the position you give to the Church of England as the guardian of truth, or the instrument of salvation, is a very inconsiderable one indeed. And yet persons like me regard what you have insisted upon as of no importance in comparison with the direct effect which the Church should exert in enlightening and regenerating and stimulating the conscience of society. I could calmly contemplate the catastrophe you dread, when "we shall see this venerable growth of English history uprooted, the parochial system swept away, the National Church broken into fragments, the cathedrals and parish churches closed, Westminster Abbey sold,"† and all the rest of your description realised; if nothing more was to perish than what concerned the dress or shape of religious profession. If the substance survived, "the removing of those things that are shaken" may only take place "that those things which cannot be shaken may remain." It seems clear to me that the error of judgment you have committed on the subject before us, has arisen from the inferior station in which the stress of your whole argument obliged you to regard what is called the voluntary principle. That principle does not merely prescribe a certain class of means for the advancement of religion; it equally fixes the end and object of religion. If we cast it aside, or disparage its influence, we injuriously affect the character of the religious manifestation to which we attach ourselves. That manifestation becomes conformed to the outward nature of the machinery on which we place our trust, and loses the spiritual force on which its real value and efficacy depend. Religion is the voluntary service of God; and the one great purpose of Christianity is to bring

the voluntary principle into operation in its bearing upon that service. My belief in truth is the result of my voluntary conviction. My discharge of duty is the result of my voluntary obedience. My hope of blessing is the result of my voluntary submission. It is my voluntary attachment to religion which produces fidelity to its claims. It is by my voluntary cultivation of religion that I am invigorated with its life. I maintain and exemplify religion as I yield to its voluntary influence. My devotion to it is a voluntary self-consecration, my sacrifices for it are a voluntary self-denial. I sink into its depths of feeling, and I rise to its heights of endeavour, according to the degree of voluntary power which I exercise on its side. I am a child of God as I resign my will to God. I am a disciple of Christ, as I give my heart to Christ. Christianity has wrought its work, and gained its triumphs in the world solely by means of the voluntary energy it has drawn forth. It is by this voluntary principle that the past history of a Church should be estimated, and that its future course will be determined. I have, therefore, no fear that the separation of Church and State will produce the evils you anticipate. The parochial system, cathedrals and parish churches, even Westminster Abbey—as they were not originated by that connection, will not be destroyed when it is dissolved. The nation will still "recognise the loftiest and purest of all the missions entrusted to it,"* by leaving religion to the natural development of its own vitality and vigour. It is thus that I echo, with a difference, your final demand for "A Free Church in a Free State."—A Church which submits to no bondage of human law, by reason of the Divine responsibility it acknowledges; and a State with "whose free constitution, and free press, and free aspirations, the voice of the Church"† completely harmonises.

I am, yours sincerely,

JOHN GORDON.

Evesham, July 17, 1868.

THE IRISH CHURCH.

DEPUTATION TO MR. GLADSTONE.—A deputation from the Hyde Park Demonstration Committee against the Irish Church waited on Saturday upon Mr. Gladstone at his residence in Carlton-house Terrace, to assure him of the continued support of the working classes, to express the hope that he would not be discouraged by the adverse vote of the House of Lords, and to inform him of the intention of the working men of London to hold a demonstration in Hyde Park on Sunday afternoon, condemnatory of the recent vote in the Lords'. The deputation consisted of Messrs. Finlen, Bartlett, Tervey, Gallagher, Ballard, &c. Several members of the deputation having spoken, and stated their reasons for holding a demonstration on the Sunday, Mr. Gladstone said he was always pleased to receive a deputation of real working men, such as the one now before him. With respect to the object of their visit, he thanked them for their sympathy, and was pleased to hear his conduct on the Irish Church question was approved by the great mass of the working classes. He could assure the deputation he had not the slightest intention of finching from the work he had undertaken, but was prepared to carry it through to a triumphant issue. It would be a tough job, but he was confident of success. He was not at all discouraged by the vote of the House of Lords, and had no doubt they would be alive to the public opinion as it would be expressed at the next election. He desired to see Ireland happy and contented, and her people not driven by England's injustice to a foreign country. The disestablishment of the Irish Church, accompanied by an improved land tenure, would do much to bring about a better state of things in that country. With respect to the demonstration alluded to, that was a matter for the consideration of themselves, and about which he was not called upon to express an opinion, further than to say that the reasons urged by the deputation why it should be held were worthy of consideration. He had no doubt order would be preserved by those attending it. Some misapprehension having arisen in the district of Blackpool as to the object of the resolutions moved by Mr. Gladstone, it was thought desirable to write to him on the subject, and the following letter has been received in reply by Mr. R. Rushton:—"11, Carlton-house-terrace, July 16, 1868. Sir,—By reference to my speeches in the House of Commons, any one who takes the trouble will find that no enactment on the subject of a distinction between different kinds of endowment, nor on the disposal of any endowment whatever, has yet been proposed by me, but that I have freely declared that, in my opinion, it will be desirable to respect all the private endowments of the Established Church of Ireland, and to interpret the phrase private endowments liberally.—I am, &c., W. E. GLADSTONE. R. Rushton, Esq. You are at liberty to make whatever use of this letter you may think fit."

THE HYDE PARK DEMONSTRATION.—A demonstration of London working men (unconnected, however, with any political association), in favour of Mr. Gladstone's Irish Church Suspensory Bill was held on Sunday afternoon in Hyde Park. The persons who took part in the meeting, about two thousand in number, assembled on Clerkenwell-green and marched in procession to the Park. Resolutions condemnatory of the course adopted by the House of Lords, and pledging those present to support Mr.

* Stanley's Address, p. 25.
† Stanley's Address, p. 24.
‡ Stanley's Address, p. 18.
§ Stanley's Address, p. 22.
|| Stanley's Address, p. 15.
¶ Stanley's Address, p. 25.
** Stanley's Address, p. 17.
†† Stanley's Address, p. 21.
‡‡ Stanley's Address, p. 23.
§§ Stanley's Address, p. 19.
||| Stanley's Address, p. 18.

* Stanley's Address, p. 23.
† Stanley's Address, p. 23.

* Stanley's Address, p. 23.
† Stanley's Address, p. 23.

Gladstone, were unanimously adopted. The proceedings, which passed off without the slightest disturbance, do not appear to have excited much enthusiasm.

HAMPSTEAD.—On Friday evening a public meeting, convened under the auspices of the Hampstead branch of the Middlesex Constitutional Association, was held at the Assembly Rooms, Hollybush-hill, Hampstead, "in defence," as the circular and advertisement specified, "of the United Church of England and Ireland." The admission was by ticket, and the attendance, on the whole, was both numerous and influential. Mr. Joseph Hoare was called to the chair, and in his opening address he strongly insisted upon the right of the Irish Church to retain its endowments as property with which the State had no business to deal. Mr. J. H. Leach, Churchwarden of Hampstead, proposed the following resolution:—"That this meeting, while anxious for the correction of any proved defects in the Irish church, is strenuously opposed to its disestablishment and disendowment." The Rev. E. H. Bickersteth seconded the resolution in a strong anti-Popery speech, and Mr. Cornick followed on the same side. The resolution was energetically resisted by the Rev. W. Brock, who, however, declined to move any amendment, considering the manifest one-sided character of the meeting, and the absurdity of its decision being taken as a true reflex of the opinion of the majority of the electors or inhabitants of the district. Mr. Mathieson and Dr. Underhill also endeavoured to show the injustice of maintaining the Irish Church in opposition to the will of the people of England and Ireland; and after Mr. Robt. Baxter, one of the agents of the Conservative or Constitutional party, had argued at some length in its favour, the resolution was put to the vote and carried by a large majority. The minority, however, was by no means insignificant. After Mr. Hale moved a second resolution, pledging the meeting not to support any candidate for Middlesex who was favourable to Mr. Gladstone's measure of disestablishment. Mr. Clows seconded this resolution, which, on a show of hands, was carried in the same manner as the first.

BARNSELY.—On Tuesday evening last week, an interesting lecture on "Some aspects of Mr. Gladstone's measure for the disendowment of the Irish Church," was delivered in the Mechanics' Hall, Barnsley, by the Rev. J. Browne, B.A., of Regent-street Congregational Church. Mr. James Chipchase occupied the chair. The lecture was loudly applauded, and at the close a resolution was unanimously carried affirming the policy of disestablishment. The audience was a numerous one, and included a considerable proportion of Roman Catholics.

LECTURES.—Mr. T. Mason Jones delivered eloquent lectures on the Irish Church in Stockton and North Shields, last week, to immense audiences. In North Shields there was a large gathering of the working classes, and the enthusiasm of the audience was something unprecedented. Mr. John Andrews, of Leeds, has also delivered a successful lecture on the same subject at Shipley, near Huddersfield.

The first vacancy in an important Crown living, since the vote of the House of Commons in reference to the Irish Church, occurred on Tuesday, by the sudden death of Dr. Kirwan, Dean of Limerick, which occurred immediately after the reverend gentleman had taken a Turkish bath. The living is worth 1,100*l.* a year, with two residences and some patronage.

THE DEAN OF CANTERBURY presided last week at a lecture delivered in that city by the Rev. Newman Hall, in connection with the anniversary services of a Dissenting chapel, in which, on the preceding day, the Rev. Mr. Dale, of Birmingham, and Mr. N. Hall, had preached, as well as in the cattle market.

RITUALISM AND NATIONALITY.—Bishop Forbes, of Brechin, has introduced into St. Margaret's Church, Lochee, that the young women of his congregation shall wear a cross decorated with a tartan ribbon, in memorial of St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland. The combination of Ritualism with nationality is a novelty.

THE NEW ACT ON CHURCHYARDS.—The statute to amend the Consecration of Churchyards Act of 1867 has been printed. The giver of land to be added to a consecrated churchyard may reserve the exclusive right of burial to the extent of one-sixth of the land so given. The recited act is to apply to burial-grounds attached or belonging to union-houses in England and Wales.

THE HERESY COMMISSION.—The following is said to be the correct list of the Commission appointed by the Bishop of London for the preliminary inquiry into the charge of heresy brought against the Rev. W. J. E. Bennett, Vicar of Frome:—Sir Travers Twiss, D.C.L., Chancellor of the diocese of London; the Ven. Archdeacon Hale, the Ven. Archdeacon Sinclair; the Rev. J. E. Kemp, rector of St. James's, Piccadilly; and the Rev. F. G. Blomfield, rector of St. Andrew Undershaft, Leadenhall-street.

THE NATAL BISHOPRIC.—The Bishop of Capetown has published a circular, in which he states that the consecration of Mr. Macrorie will take place as soon as possible, Convocation having declared that the Church, as a spiritual body, may accept the sentence pronounced against Dr. Colenso, and the Government having admitted that an orthodox bishop for "the faithful clergy and laity in Natal" may be consecrated. There is still some difficulty, however, about funds. Dr. Gray says that, seeing no one else was prepared to do so, he has made himself responsible to the new bishop for a salary of 600*l.* a year as long as it may be needed. Towards this he has received promises to the extent of 600*l.* a year for five years, half of which has already

been paid. An income, however, may be needed for ten or fifteen years, and he is sure it will be felt that it is "neither reasonable nor right that one bishop in Africa should remain responsible for the income of another." Dr. Gray has accordingly held a meeting with a few members of Convocation, and they have unanimously come to the conclusion that it is desirable to form an association to collect funds, so that the required sum may be made up. The association would also "aid such other works in South Africa as may commend themselves to the sympathy of the Church."

THE IRISH CHURCH COMMISSION.—It seems no longer to be a secret that the Irish Church Commissioners have unanimously resolved to recommend that from out of the twelve remaining bishoprics four shall be abolished, and that the incomes of the remaining eight shall be 3,000*l.* a year for each of six bishops, 4,000*l.* or 4,500*l.* a year for the see of Dublin, according as it shall be a bishopric or archbishopric, and 6,000*l.* a year for the Archbishop of Armagh. An extra allowance of 500*l.* a year for each bishop whose turn it is to sit in Parliament is also recommended.—*Record.*

MR. HUBBARD AND THE REV. MR. MACKONOCHE.—Mr. J. G. Hubbard, M.P., who was the founder of St. Alban's, Holborn, is not unnaturally supposed by many persons to be friendly to the ritual practised there. As this is not so, he has thought it his duty to exonerate himself by publishing a correspondence he has had with the Bishop of London on the subject. This clearly establishes the fact that Mr. Mackonochie has shown no sort of deference to the feelings of his patron. The Bishop, in a letter dated Saturday last, says that as the judgment of the Court of Arches in the prosecution of Mr. Mackonochie has been appealed against, he can take no steps pending the final decision. He adds:—"I have for some time past been of opinion, and have taken public occasion to express my opinion, that the evils of excessive Ritualism, which at present give so much distress to many attached members of the Church of England, cannot be remedied, unless, either by the decision of the courts, or by fresh legislation, some new method is secured for the exercise of controlling power on the part of the Ordinary."

LORD DENBIGH AND THE SUSPENSORY BILL.—The Earl of Denbigh, a Catholic, whose vote in favour of the Suspensory Bill occasioned some surprise to those who, knowing his Conservative opinions, yet forgot that he was a Roman Catholic, has addressed a letter to the Earl of Derby explanatory of his reasons, which were purely religious, for voting against his party. His lordship writes:—

Though no one is more conscious of the necessity of the preservation of parties in the political government of this country than myself, yet I believe there are limits beyond which no man of conscientious feelings and high principle can go when questions of great and vital moment are in debate. I believe this Suspensory Bill to have been the first step towards redressing a grievous national injustice. I could not but lament the mode and time of bringing it forward, both of which invested it with a suspicious and party character; but I could not refuse to accept it when once presented to me. It is my firm conviction that her Majesty's Government had a *bona fide* intention of dealing honestly with the Irish grievances, and had they shown the same political wisdom, tact, and resolution in dealing with them as they did last year in carrying Reform, even against the prejudices of their party, they would have won Ireland.

—*Globe.*

LEVYING OF A VOLUNTARY CHURCH-RATE AT ROTHERHAM.—A vestry-meeting of the inhabitants of Rotherham was held at the court-house at noon, on Thursday, "for the purpose of making a church-rate or assessment for the current year." In the absence of the vicar, Mr. W. Hutchinson presided. The churchwardens laid before the meeting an estimate for the proposed voluntary rate, amounting to 304*l.*, and it was proposed by Mr. Hoyle, and seconded by Mr. Searle, that towards raising this sum a voluntary rate of 4*d.* in the pound be laid. This was unanimously carried, the chairman and Messrs. Guest, Whitfield, Searle, Willis, Goodall, and Barras signing the following declaration:—"We, the churchwardens and other parishioners of the ecclesiastical district of Rotherham, whose names were hereunto subscribed, do hereby at our vestry-meeting for that purpose assembled rate and tax ourselves, and every other the inhabitants and parishioners of the aforesaid ecclesiastical district, at the sum and after the rate of 4*d.* in the pound upon the rateable value of all property within the said district." In the course of the meeting the bill which has recently passed both Houses of Parliament for the abolition of compulsory Church-rates was referred to by several gentlemen.—*Sheffield Independent.*

RITUALISTS AND THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—Two centuries ago the Church of England might have been made truly national if it had not been for the High-Churchmen of that day. Great changes will assuredly be made in it before long. When the time for them comes their nature and direction will depend very much upon the question whether the Ritualists still form a powerful party in the Church or not. It must never be forgotten that this whole subject is one which will settle itself if it is not settled by the Legislature. It is needless to say what are the reasons why Church Establishments are on their trial in this country at all events. If the law does not deal with Ritualism, the people will deal with it after this fashion. They will say sooner or later, This kind of Church suits us as little as the Protestant Establishment suited the Irish, and sooner than see Popery brought back under an *alias* we will break up the whole institution. We cannot understand how anyone who opens his eyes can fail to see that there is the very greatest danger that such ques-

tions will be asked before long in the most peremptory tone. If they are, we shall see such a disturbance of all our institutions as this century has not yet witnessed. Such an Act as Lord Shaftesbury proposes will probably produce a small clerical secession; but if the matter is left alone for ten years, it is impossible to say how high the tide will have risen, or what it will not carry away. The case is one in which courage is the best prudence, and in which, moreover, we can by no means be sure as to the amount of time which we shall have in which to make up our minds.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

A CASE OF SOME INTEREST TO NONCONFORMISTS.—*Dignum v. Deaking*—was heard in the Court of Chancery on the 8th inst. In this case an appeal had been brought by the plaintiffs from the decision of the Master of the Rolls under the following circumstances:—By a deed in 1840 a Dissenting chapel at Northwick was placed under the care of trustees, to whom the duty was assigned of maintaining the fabric, and to whom a fund was given for the purpose of paying the various expenses of the chapel. It was, however, provided by the same deed that the spiritual affairs should be taken charge of and administered by a body of persons called "leaders." At the time when the congregation was first instituted the chapel possessed no organ, but one was afterwards bought, which had been taken charge of by the trustees. A controversy then arose between them and the leaders as to which body had a right to appoint an organist, and also to provide for the time when the organ should be played, and eventually the leaders filed a bill. The Master of the Rolls having dismissed that bill, the present appeal was brought. The Lord Chancellor dismissed the bill with costs. It was clear then that the trustees had the duty imposed upon them of maintaining and keeping the property of the chapel, and the organ in question came within such charge.

THE BISHOP OF ELY AND THE CHURCH QUESTION.—The Bishop of Ely, at the annual conference of his clergy and laity just held, adverting to the possible separation of Church and State, said:—"I trust in God's mercy that it may be averted, but if it should come it is a danger which we must face and meet. I do not wish it to be thought that I consider this to be the aim of our leading statesmen. I will say, for instance, that I do not consider it to be the aim which Mr. Gladstone has in view; but the fact that so large a portion of the population is alienated from the Church, and that that portion is gaining more political power, must tend towards disestablishment. Nevertheless, I should not on that account despair. We must strive to keep what blessings have been given to us; but if it should happen that in the course of the next few years they should be taken away, we may still strive to maintain the Anglican Church; we should still be of the Catholic Church in this country; and, if organised, we might still be able to prevent our Church on the one hand from being absorbed into Rome, on the other from dwindling down into a sect. If our Church is not to pale before Rome on the one side or rationalism on the other, it must be the result of greater life and fuller organisation."

THE ST. GEORGE'S EAST CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT.—Church affairs in St. George's East, as exposed at the vestry on Thursday, have come to a pretty pass. The parish church has for some years enjoyed the unenviable distinction of being the very dirtiest in London; the congregation is growing "smaller by degrees and beautifully less"; and the church funds, legitimately raised, are a dissolving view. We say "legitimately raised," because we believe there cannot be the shadow of a doubt that the money annually voted by the vestry towards the church expenses is illegally voted. We have repeatedly contended for this, as it has been consistently contended year after year at the vestry by Mr. Fraser; and we have never found any one prepared to contest the position. The vestry are now told, however, that if they do not continue to vote the annual grant, and imperil the legality of their general rate, upon which it becomes a charge, the church must be shut up. The senior retiring warden reiterated this statement, which came, in the first instance, from the chair, and he adduced some pregnant facts in support of it. Voluntary sources of revenue are falling off; the congregation (who average, we understand, about twenty), are positively unable, however willing they might be, to bear the charges attending the performance of Divine worship; in illustration of which the fact was cited that the last collection realised the munificent sum of eighteen shillings. There are, in fact, many respects in which the standing arguments against the Irish Establishment would apply exactly to the Establishment in St. George's East, whose rector is, of course, with perfect consistency, a strong "Church and State" man. The members of the congregation cost the general fund of the parish one pound per head to provide them with gas; another pound for the apparently needless luxury of pew-openers; and about ten for *et ceteras*. Nothing could well be more unsatisfactory than the present state of things; the rector—an amiable, and we dare say, well-meaning man—has done nothing, and it is safe to assume to the end will do nothing to improve it; and to add to the scandal in the eyes of all practical men, every post carries out circulars to the benevolent, deploring the urgent need of church extension in this very parish, soliciting contributions to the erection of a new church to meet the spiritual destitution of the people!—*East London Observer.* [A correspondent writes—"This is not the only parish in the east of London that pays Church expenses out of the general rate. The poor-law auditor prevents these payments out of poor-rate, but as there are no auditors but those chosen by the vestry to

audit the general rate—and these are often incompetent—many Church charges are paid out of that rate.”]

Religious and Denominational News.

OPENING OF ELTHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

BY OBSERVER.

On Wednesday, July 15, at the village of Eltham, the ceremony of the opening was performed of the new Congregational church under the most favourable auspices. The place was for many years a Royal residence, “John of Eltham,” the youngest son of the second Edward, having been born there; in a barn, once the great hall of the palace, the French King John, who, taken prisoner at Poitiers, died in exile at the Savoy Palace, was magnificently entertained. There is nothing very majestic or kingly about the place now, it has a racing stable, and an abundance of public-houses, a railway-station, and a metropolitan main drainage shaft, for sending the gases generated beneath to the blue skies above; there is a considerable amount of building going on; and if the suicidal policy of the South-Eastern Railway in raising their fares be not persevered in, there is a possibility of the detached and semi-detached villas obtaining occupants.

However, the ancient Royal manor is now, of course, Royal property, and as such is merged in her Majesty's Woods and Forests and Land Revenues, who let sites for building or grant them, receive the moneys when due, and act generally as stewards for the Crown and country. Comparatively, recently, the officials on whom devolved the responsibility, have granted three sites for Episcopalian places of worship and their surroundings; and therefore, when the accommodative capacity of the Independent chapel became too limited for the comfort of the worshippers, it was thought desirable to apply to the commissioners for the lease, or purchase, of a plot of ground on which to build a new Nonconformist structure; this, however, was peremptorily refused, as indeed it was likely to be, for whatever can be the use of commissioners, assistant commissioners, principal clerks, senior clerks, assistant clerks, junior clerks, supplementary clerks, receivers, solicitors, stewards, surveyors, &c., &c., to the number of nearly ninety, if not for the purpose of snubbing and keeping in its proper place so heathenish and heretical a thing as Dissent. Dissenters do no duty for the country, pay no rents, have no interest in the State, contribute not to the revenue. How presumptuous, then, of them, when they were permitted to live in peace in a land which is not theirs, to think that they might obtain a lease, or drive a bargain for a piece of a Crown holding like ordinary human beings: the aforesaid ninety officials, or as many of them, at least, who entered upon the business, disabused the presumptuous applicants of any such strange notion as that they had any rights such as ordinary citizens possess, and accordingly the application was refused. In fact, so far as possible, the manufacture of Dissenters on Crown lands was strictly prohibited, like any other offensive nuisance.

But what a preposterous thing human nature—and especially Nonconformist human nature—is; it will persist in thinking it has rights. It will protest against wrongs, and it won't be snubbed and take it quietly—and there are certain unofficial newspapers that will print their complainings, to the terrible disturbance of the official mind, and to the grievous shocking of the ecclesiastical nervous system. The future generations of “Noncons” may like the disagreeable process of kicking, but the present race are remarkably averse to the amusement. This has been shown by the result of the transactions in the present case: for, first, the parties aggrieved publish the official correspondence; next, the venerable member for Sheffield, Mr. G. Hadfield, brought the matter before the House of Commons; and third, the noble-spirited Mr. Gladstone expressed his willingness to receive a deputation, and give any aid in his power under the circumstances; but this was rendered unnecessary by the unselfish conduct of Mr. H. W. Dobell, who ceded to the congregation, free of all cost, a portion of his own grounds, contiguous to the parish church, abutting on the main street, opposite the railway-station road, and the most central and conspicuous spot in the place, for the building.

The foundation stone of the new church was laid by Samuel Morley, Esq., July 23rd of last year, so that the structure has been completed within the twelvemonth; practically it was opened, free of debt on Wednesday last, when after the offering of the dedicatory prayer, the Samuel Martin, of Westminster, preached from Rom. xvi 25—27, to a large and influential company.

At two o'clock a cold collation was provided in the capacious schoolroom underneath the church, at which Mr. Dobell presided, supported by the Rev. S. Martin, Dr. Raleigh, J. Kennedy, L. Bevan, J. Pulling, W. Gill, G. M. Murphy, F. S. Attenborough, J. Beazley, Messrs. Carvell Williams, H. Wright, Jennings, Lee, and many others. After a verse of the National Anthem had been sung, the chairman gave a detailed and interesting account of the history of the cause of Independency in Eltham from the period of his association with it to the present time. The meeting was subsequently addressed by the pastor of the church, the Rev. J. Marshall, H. Wright, Esq., Rev. J. Pullen, W. Gill, S. Martin, &c. It was announced from the chair that the entire

cost of the building, between five and six thousand pounds, had been raised within some hundred and fifty pounds.

The evening preacher was the Rev. Dr. Raleigh, who took for his text John i. 16, “Grace for grace,” and delivered a very earnest and characteristic discourse to a crowded audience, a liberal collection being made at the close, justifying the announcement that no further call would be made upon the congregation toward the building fund. The attendance of ministers from the county of Kent and the adjacent counties was a pleasing indication of the wide-spread interest felt in the cause, and the special circumstances of the case.

The building, which reflects great credit upon the architect, Mr. T. C. Clarke, and the builder, is a simple parallelogram, with an apse in the rear, for the Communion table, the elegant stone pulpit occupying the north-east angle. The building is nearly eighty feet long, and forty-four feet wide, with a gallery at the southern end; the area and gallery unitedly will hold about 600 persons. At the south-east corner a tower and spire a hundred feet high is erected; by the tower the gallery is reached; in the basement the ministers and the deacons' vestries, class and schoolrooms are situate, being lofty, well ventilated, and lighted. The building is mainly constructed of Kentish ragstone, with Bath stone dressings, ample space being reserved for the construction of side galleries when they may be required. The roof and seats are of stained timber, and the general appearance of the place is light, cheerful, and airy; it is an ornament to Eltham, a credit to the denomination, and a monument of the triumph of Nonconformist voluntarism over the bigotry of ecclesiastical flunkeyism. We wish all connected with it God speed.

THE REV. H. F. WALKER, having received an invitation to the pastorate of the Congregational church, Pendlebury, Manchester, has announced his intention of shortly resigning the pastorate of the Congregational church, Uppingham, and intends entering upon his new sphere on the second Sunday in August.

UNITARIAN QUAKERS.—The small but increasing section of Unitarian Friends who appear to take Dr. Colenso as their great authority, are continuing to issue pamphlets containing enunciations of their views in derogation of Scriptural authority and of the deity of Christ. At the last annual meeting of the society, held in London in May, much discussion took place relative to the progress of these unsound doctrines. We are sorry to learn from several sources that during the past two months the difficulties attendant on this movement have increased instead of decreased. Much anxiety is felt by the Friends in the neighbourhood of Manchester in particular.—*Christian World.*

STOKE MANDERVILLE.—In this village in the Aylesbury circuit the foundation stone of a new Wesleyan Chapel were laid on the 9th inst. by Thomas Twitchell, Esq., of Bedford, Mr. W. Ward, Mr. C. S. Madder, and Mr. John Mead, each of whom placed on the stone he laid 5*l*. Mr. Twitchell, who, for the third time in six weeks, laid the foundation stone of a new chapel, gave an earnest address, in which he stated that Wesleyan Methodists have expended on an average of the last eight years more than a quarter of a million in the work of building chapels and paying off debts on places of worship, which he thought was a fact greatly in favour of the voluntary system, of which we hear so much in the present day.

CLERKENWELL.—A very interesting meeting has been held at Wilmington Chapel, Ann-street, Clerkenwell, for the public recognition of the pastor, the Rev. E. Cozens Cooke. The Rev. D. Jeavons opened the meeting by prayer. The Hon. and Rev. B. W. Noel gave a very earnest and instructive address. He stated that the formation of the church had arisen from the work of the Wilmington District Mission, an offshoot of John-street Chapel. The church had been formed in 1866, with twenty members, and now numbered, after all deductions, 125. Encouraging addresses were delivered by the Rev. Phillip Gast, the Rev. J. Morgan, the Rev. J. Bennett, the pastor, and other ministers and friends also took part in the meeting.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—The Rev. John Hutchison, of Albion Chapel, in this town, having received an invitation to become pastor of Great George-street Chapel, Liverpool, in succession to the Rev. Enoch Mellor, M.A., has declined the offer. In announcing his decision to the members of his congregation, he said:—“I have replied that neither my judgment nor my affections permit me to entertain any proposals for leaving the church of which I have the honour to be the minister. Permit me also to add that it is three years last month since I preached here for the first time, and I can safely say that my love for you is greater, my interest in your spiritual and temporal welfare deeper than ever, and I pray God to enable me wisely and faithfully to use any acceptance which my ministry has found among you for the furtherance of the highest and best life of your souls.”

SARDIS, PEMBROKESHIRE.—The Independent chapel at this place, which was built, chiefly through the efforts of the late Rev. William Thomas, sixty years ago, and of which he was minister till the time of his death, was last week reopened after enlargement and repairs. The services were conducted in the morning by the Rev. J. M. Jones, of Narberth (who is the minister elect of Lewisham), in the afternoon by the Rev. Urijah Thomas, of Bristol, a grandson, and in the evening by the Rev. Dr. Thomas, of Stockwell, son of the founder and first

pastor. The present minister, the Rev. D. Mathias, who has had the place renovated and improved, must have been greatly encouraged by the zeal and liberality manifested by the crowded congregations of the day. Mostly labourers, they had secured release for the day from the colliery where they work, by devoting for a week or two previously their evenings, as after time. The collections on the day were 33*l*, being additional to nearly 80*l*. the same people had just subscribed for the same object.

STROUD.—On Thursday evening, July 9th, a handsome testimonial was presented to the Rev. Wm. Wheeler, of Stroud, on the completion of the twenty-fifth year of his pastorate of the Congregational church meeting in Bedford-street Chapel in that town. The testimonial consisted of a hundred guineas presented on a salver worth twenty guineas, and a marble timepiece for Mrs. Wheeler. The inscription on the salver announced that the gift was intended “to testify the respect and love” of the congregation for Mr. Wheeler “as a Christian gentleman, an unchanging friend, and a consistent Nonconformist minister.” The presentation was made at a meeting over which Mr. Coveney, the senior deacon, presided, and addresses were delivered by Mr. J. Randall, Mr. Rouse, Mr. Cornish, Mr. L. W. Winterbotham, Mr. Bragg, and Mr. S. S. Marling. Mr. Wheeler very warmly acknowledged the kindness which had prompted the gift. The money was raised spontaneously, entirely among members of the congregation.

CHRIST CHURCH, SYDENHAM, FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—This church (formerly known as the Old Episcopal Chapel), which has been closed during the year 1867, was reopened for Divine worship six months ago as a Free Church of England church by the Rev. Samuel March, the present minister. A new congregation has been gathered. The Gospel has been preached. The Lord's Supper has been administered. A Sabbath-school has been formed. Tracts have been distributed throughout the neighbourhood. Great interest has been taken in the worship, and tokens of Divine favour have rested upon the undertaking. The church, which will accommodate about six hundred persons, is held at a rental, but the option of purchasing the freehold within three years is secured. It is earnestly hoped that the building may ultimately be purchased, and put in trust for the use, not only of the present, but of future generations. A committee has recently been formed, consisting of eight gentlemen residing in the neighbourhood, who have resolved to carry on the work. On Sunday last sermons were preached by the Revs. T. E. Thoresby and Newman Hall, when collections were made in aid of the funds of the church.

LONDON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.—The quarterly meeting of this association was held on Tuesday last week, in the church at Hampstead, of which the Rev. W. Brock, jun., is minister. In the absence of the president, the Rev. Dr. Landels, the chair was taken by the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon. A conference of ministers on a religious subject occupied the morning. Dinner was provided in the schoolroom. Mr. Spurgeon presided, and, in the course of a genial speech, referring to the fact that Mr. Brock was invited by the Churchmen of Hampstead to a meeting on the Irish Church on Thursday evening, said he should be most happy to receive a similar invitation to an Irish Church meeting, and there to meet the Right Rev. Father in God, the Bishop of Oxford, with him to discuss the whole question. In the evening Mr. Spurgeon preached to a crowded congregation, on “Spiritual Health.” At the close of the sermon he made an appeal on behalf of the London Baptist Association—one of the practical objects of which, he said, is to build one church in London every year. This object has been accomplished so far that three large and elegant places of worship have been erected by the united efforts of the London congregations.

WOOLLAHRA, NEW SOUTH WALES.—The recognition services in connection with the settlement of the Rev. T. S. Forsaith, as successor to the Rev. J. E. Vetch, as pastor of the Congregational church in this place, took place on Sunday and Monday, May 17th and 18th. Sermons on the previous day were preached by the Rev. W. Slatyer and the Rev. J. P. Sunderland. On the following evening, after a social tea *soirée*, a public meeting was held, Mr. John Fairfax presiding. The Rev. Thomas Gainsford gave out a suitable hymn, and the Rev. Thomas Roseby offered up prayer. The chairman briefly mentioned the history of the church, which had its beginning in the latest ministerial efforts of the late Rev. Dr. Ross, and of the late missionary, the Rev. Aaron Buzacott, greatly assisted by the Rev. John West. The two former had long since gone to their rest and reward. The latter gentleman was still spared to occupy a position and command an influence second to none in this community. It so happened that Mr. Forsaith and he arrived in this colony in the same week nearly thirty years ago, and the first religious service which they attended was that of the Lord's Supper, administered by the late martyred missionary, the Rev. John Williams. Mr. Randolph Nott, one of the deacons, related the circumstances which had led to the call of Mr. Forsaith. The pastor responded in suitable and affectionate terms, briefly stating the doctrines and principles which would be the guiding features of his ministry. A lengthy, but eloquent address to the new pastor was then made by the Rev. John Graham, founded on the words in Paul's second Epistle to Corinthians i. 24, “Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy.” Afterwards the Rev. Mr. Scott, B.A., missionary to the South Sea Islands, addressed the members of the church on their relative duties and advantages; and the Rev. W. Slatyer

said a few kindly words to strangers and visitors.—*Sydney Morning Herald.*

BIBLE-WOMEN'S SUMMER TREAT.—The annual treat to the 250 Bible-women of London, who are labouring under the superintendence of Mrs. Ranyard, took place on the 30th ult., in the beautiful grounds of Henry Ford Barclay, Esq., of Monk-hams, Woodford. A special train conveyed the Bible-women and their superintendent from London at ten o'clock a.m. A bountiful dinner was provided in a large tent at twelve o'clock. The afternoon was most agreeably and profitably spent. Groups of the Bible-women might be seen wending their way amongst the beautiful flower-beds, and then settling under various trees, or in shady nooks, holding little meetings for prayer, conversation, and singing. At six, the bell rang for tea, a repast which was evidently highly relished by the happy-looking guests. After tea, a very delightful meeting was held, which was addressed by the Rev. C. Pennefather, Mr. Jonathan Grubb, Mr. John Macgregor (Rob Roy), and Mr. Henry Varley. These excellent addresses were listened to with the deepest attention. This year a desire was felt to testify their thanks, and the thanks of their superintendents, in a substantial manner. Mrs. Ranyard kindly entered into the project, and by the union of many small subscriptions, a copy of Bagster's large Bible, magnificently bound, was purchased. During the course of the meeting, Mrs. Ramard desired to say a few words, when, to the surprise of the worthy host and his family, but to the great delight of the hundreds by whom the tent was crowded, she presented Mr. Barclay with a copy of Bagster's large Bible, magnificently bound, as the grateful gift of "the Bible-women and their superintendents." The presentation was suitably acknowledged by Mr. Barclay, who expressed the gratification which it afforded himself, Mrs. Barclay, and his family, by having the Bible-women to visit them yearly. On the meeting breaking up, bouquets of flowers were presented to the Bible-women, and a special train conveyed them back to London.

ANOTHER CHRISTIAN UNION MOVEMENT.—The *Weekly Review* reports a meeting held, on the morning of Tuesday last, at the Baptist College, Regent's Park, of the friends of "Visible Christian Union." It was convened in compliance with a requisition signed by a number of ministers and members of the various Nonconformist communions. The requisitionists state that, being deeply "impressed with the critical position in which the Church of Christ is now placed, and convinced that her safety is, under God, to be found in a closer union of all Evangelical Protestants," they had resolved to hold a conference on this important subject. A large number of gentlemen of the various Evangelical denominations attended. After breakfast, a paper was read by the Rev. Dr. Roberts, of St. John's Wood Presbyterian Church, advocating union amongst the Evangelical denominations. After stating that there had been already too much of mere rhetorical expatiating on the duty and privilege of union, he proceeded to point out certain practical ways and methods by which the unity that, in spite of existing divisions, links Christians in fellowship might be evinced. First of all he recommended an occasional joint communion service, urging that the great Christian feast of love is specially adapted to prove to the world that Christians still love each other. In the second place, he urged the frequent interchange of pulpits between Evangelical preachers of various denominations. He declared that he had preached in Congregational pulpits, but never had been invited to that honour by a Wesleyan or Baptist brother, and that he longed to have experience of both. In the third place, he advocated a combined, unsectarian effort to carry the Gospel to the heathen world. On this head he professed himself to entertain very deep feelings, and stated his profound conviction that it is the duty of all Evangelical Churches to combine at once in seeking the spread of the Gospel both at home and abroad. The paper was listened to with warm appreciation, and a committee was appointed to carry out the object in view, consisting of Church of England clergymen, Presbyterians, Baptists, Independents, and others.

RESIGNATION OF THE HON. AND REV. BAPTIST NOEL.—Mr. Noel having attained the age of seventy, is carrying out his previously intimated intention of resigning the pastorate of John-street Chapel, intending to devote the remainder of his life to evangelistic labours. His farewell sermon will be preached next Sunday; but a farewell meeting of the congregation was held last Wednesday, at which he received a gift of 1,000*l.*, and many other testimonials of affection. In acknowledging these gifts, Mr. Noel said he had always felt, and he felt then, that it was well for ministers not to wait until they were quite worn out before they left their places to be filled by others. He therefore left them, because he was quite convinced that were he to remain longer his increased infirmities would be an injury to the church. He left them because his work, which had always been to him a joy, would soon have become a burden. Then when a man felt his work to be a burden he could not do it well and with comfort. The leaving off work by an old man was very different to leaving off work by a young man. They would remember that some time ago a splendid vessel, the *Royal George*, which had not accomplished any work, went down with all her crew, owing to the effects of a land breeze. That was a very awful thing. But an old vessel which has done its work, which had rotten timbers, and whose sides were filled with bullet-holes, should be put aside for show rather than anything else. This was the case with ministers, and it was no disadvantage; on the contrary, it was a natural and proper thing. He could

not properly express his thanks to them. They ought to be very abundant indeed if they were according to merit. They had been good enough to express to him their kindness by giving to him a thousand pounds and a silver salver. As a friend of his said, "This was ten times more from the people of John-street Chapel than it would be in some congregations he knew." He then expressed his thanks for the other gifts he had received. They would now very naturally ask him what he proposed to do during the remainder of his life. Dr. Chalmers once said to him, "I think the life of a man is a week; the first six days are meant for work, and the last one is meant to be a Sabbath for communion." He did not quite agree with that. Dr. Chalmers would set men aside at sixty, and he had not made a Sabbath of the years beyond sixty. He thought an old minister should get a retired home in the country, where, with his family, he might talk with God and nature. There, with his greatest earthly blessing, his beloved partner of forty years, they would walk together, often looking across the ocean, saying, "We shall soon be of the land beyond." He was, however, not going to be idle. It was his intention to preach wherever he could whilst God gave him strength to do so. He then urged upon all present the duty of maintaining the strength and efficiency of the Church, observing that there must be constant growth both in them and in himself. He also exhorted them to pray for him, whilst he would pray for them. He looked forward to the time when he would meet them occasionally, and when he hoped to find them as well as himself growing in grace. Subsequently feeling and appropriate addresses were delivered by Mr. Marcus Martin (who has been under Mr. Noel's ministry for over the third of a century) and several other members of the congregation. On Sunday evening Mr. Noel preached his farewell sermon to a congregation that crowded the building in every part. Large numbers of people failed to obtain an entrance. Mr. Noel had, in the afternoon, delivered a farewell address to the Young Men's Association in connection with his congregation; and in his evening's sermon made no very formal allusion to the circumstances under which he met his people. Simply, frankly, and pathetically he adopted as his own farewell words the verse (Galatians vi. chap. 14 ver.) in which St. Paul took his farewell of the people of Galatia.

Correspondence.

THE GLASGOW AND ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY ELECTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Will you allow me to call the attention of my fellow graduates who may read your columns to the importance of the first election of a member of Parliament for the Scottish Universities? The new Reform Bill gives a member to Edinburgh and to St. Andrews, and another to Glasgow and Aberdeen. For the latter constituency, to which I wish to call special attention, there are now three candidates. The last in the field is Mr. Archibald Smith, M.A., of Jordanhill, the son, I presume, of James Smith, of Jordanhill, well and honourably known to Biblical scholars. Mr. Smith is recommended to us by the chairman and vice-chairman of his Glasgow committee, the latter being Dr. Norman Macleod, as "a moderate Liberal, but wholly unbiassed by party spirit." I confess to no small admiration of the simplicity of Mr. Smith's friends in this recommendation, or if they are not simple, they must credit us, the graduates of Glasgow and Aberdeen, with exceeding simplicity. While the whole nation is stirred with questions, one may say, of life or death—questions than which none graver have been agitated since the Revolution of 1688—we are asked to vote for a man who either has no opinions on those questions or thinks it prudent to conceal his opinions. No "contributions to mathematical and physical research" can recommend such a man for the office of legislator in such times as these. The second candidate is the present Lord Advocate, Mr. Edward S. Gordon, an eminent Scottish lawyer. The Conservatives are fortunate in their candidate. Mr. Gordon has proved himself well qualified for House of Commons business by his conduct of the Scottish Reform Bill, and on personal grounds he is unexceptional. But he is a Tory. If there be merit in Mr. Disraeli and his policy let Mr. Gordon reap the fruit of it; if there be demerit he must submit to the consequences. Those who are satisfied with the present Government will support him; those who are not, cannot. With pleasant recollections of schoolboy days, I should like to support him if I could, but a sense of duty forbids.

The third candidate, but first in the field, is Mr. James Moncrieff, now one of the members for Edinburgh, and Lord Advocate under Lord Aberdeen, Lord Palmerston, and Lord Russell. I am one of those who think that Mr. Moncrieff made a great mistake in the matter of the Edinburgh Annuity-tax. But I cannot forget that he was the author of the bill which abolished the Scottish University tests in 1853, that he has earnestly supported all Liberal measures proposed by Lord Russell and Mr. Gladstone, and that he is a strenuous supporter of Mr. Gladstone's Irish policy. "My political opinions," he says, "I derived from those who stood firm for the principles of civil and religious freedom when they were neither popular nor profitable. I have done my best to maintain them in

the conflicts of later years, and I am not likely to desert them now when they seem to be accepted by all." The son of Lord Moncrieff, the grandson of the Rev. Sir Harry Moncrieff, Bart. (a Liberal and an Evangelical when both were rare in the Presbyterian Kirk), James Moncrieff maintains the honour of his ancestry, and is fit and worthy to be the first representative of those Universities which have derived so much benefit from his legislative exertions.

Let me express the hope that not one who is entitled to vote will fail to have himself immediately enrolled as a member of the council of the University to which he belongs. A single vote may determine who shall represent the Universities of Glasgow and Aberdeen in the next Parliament.

It is still open to persons qualified to be enrolled as members of Council, either as masters of arts, doctors of medicine or science, bachelors of divinity, or of laws, or of medicine, or as having, prior to 1861, attended either of the two Universities for four complete sessions (two being in the faculty of arts), or for three sessions at one of those Universities, and one at every other Scotch University. Every information and assistance will be afforded to such persons in regard to registration, on their applying to either of the secretaries, George Paterson, Esq., 157, Hope-street, Glasgow, secretary to the Glasgow Committee, or Charles Duncan, Esq., advocate, Aberdeen, secretary to the Aberdeen Committee. There is no time to be lost.

I am, your obedient servant,

JOHN KENNEDY.

Stepney Green, July 21, 1868.

THE IRISH CHURCH.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—As one who has long studied the Irish Church question, I felt much disappointed at the rejection by the Lords of the Suspensory Bill. And although the Commons discharged their duty faithfully, yet it may be said that to a large extent they "laboured in vain, and spent their strength for nought." For even assuming that the measure will be carried by the new Parliament, it is painful to think that a year or more of the benefits desirable from such a measure should be lost to Ireland. However nothing remains but to fight the battle over again. It seems to me, that the English people, previous to the coming general election, need to be fully posted up as to the real merits of the question, inasmuch as the Irish Church defence party in Parliament have not treated the subject with becoming candour. In discussing it, they have almost invariably followed the example of those whose aim is from false promises to derive sound conclusions, as we find by the following quotation from the speeches of the Earls of Derby and Bandon. The former said,—"The Roman Catholic population of Ireland will, in my belief, lose rather than gain by the removal of the Protestant clergyman, a removal which will in any case be far from contributing to the peace and tranquillity of Ireland. In place of the clergy you propose to remove, you will have an irruption of agents from the missionary societies. These persons, whose zeal is not always tempered by discretion, will suddenly spring into activity, and at once occupy the vacant ground. From the moment that that happens, you may have an increase in the number of nominal Protestants, but it will be accompanied by such a storm of animosity as has not been witnessed for many years past. It will give rise to religious feuds and animosity in places where nothing of the kind prevails at the present moment. That, and not universal peace and contentment, will be the result of this measure."

These statements of the noble Earl are the fallacious assumptions of one who views the question merely as a political partisan. But looking at it as I do from the Christian stand-point, and uninfluenced by party spirit or bigotry, I claim to know more of the real merits of the question, and to be a more impartial witness than the Earl of Derby. The first statement in the above quotation from his speech is fallacious. Those who seek the disendowment of the Irish Church do not want to remove the Protestant clergyman from his parish, any more than they seek the removal of the Nonconformist minister who may be labouring in the same parish. They only ask that he, like the other, may be sustained by the people of his charge, upon the voluntary principle. His lordship proceeds,—"In place of the clergymen you propose to remove, you will have an irruption of agents from the missionary society, &c." The best answer to be given to this, is to inform him that I heard his friend and supporter, the Earl of Bandon, at a recent meeting of the clergy and laity, for the defence of the Irish Church, tell the clergy that "in order to their being more successful, they should henceforth become more of a missionary church, and instead of confining their preaching to Protestants, they should preach to all the people." And as regards the peace and tranquillity of Ireland being disturbed by what he calls an irruption of missionary agents, let me remind him that at the same meeting to which I have referred, the opinion of some of the clergy who spoke, was that one of the wants of the Church in order to its becoming more aggressive against the spread of Romanism, was more controversy. The peace and tranquillity which the Earl of Derby deprecates being disturbed, is the peace and tranquillity of stagnation and death, and prevails most where the Irish clergyman and Romish priest are

found shaking hands, because the clergyman is most inactive and allows the priest to have everything his own way. My heart's desire and prayer is that we may soon have this irruption of missionaries preaching throughout Ireland, men of the right stamp, men who like the Apostles "will turn the world upside down," and that as the result of their preaching we shall witness the storm of animosity and the religious feuds (for a season if need be) which the noble lord so much fears, as from the apostolic age down to the present such storms, and feuds, and controversies have ever been the concomitants or precursors of a revival of Christianity, whose Founder said, "I come not to send peace, but a sword." We have another of the false premises laid down by the defenders of the Irish Church, in the following quotation from the speech of the Earl of Bandon on the Suspensory Bill:—"There is this extraordinary fact in connection with this bill, that this is the first time that it has been proposed to the members of a Church to destroy that Church for its own benefit." Since the introduction of the Irish Church question into Parliament, much mischief has been done by the Church Defence party in the improper use and application of the word *destroy*. It is a reflection upon the scholarship of the Earl of Bandon and others of his party to use such a word as applicable to this question, the meaning of which word is "to demolish, to pull down, to ruin, to kill, extirpate, bring to nought, devour, consume."

In none of these senses of the word do those who seek the disendowment of the Irish Church want to destroy it. But on the contrary, honestly believing that the present system of State support has hitherto destroyed its efficiency and success, they want to render it more efficient by removing from the main building this decayed wing, which is spreading damp and dry rot throughout it. The Earl of Bandon, when he proclaims that the disendowment and destruction of the Irish Church mean one and the same thing, places himself in the unenviable position of one who avows that the Irish Church, instead of being a counterpart of New Testament Christianity, is nothing more than a mere money question. The Dean of Cork, at a recent meeting there, admitted that "the Irish Church was no more a question of mere endowment than a man was his purse"; but he added that "it would be an inconvenient thing for a man to lose his purse." The bishops and clergy of the Irish Church must feel themselves rebuked when they read the Epistles and Gospels, for their having inverted the order of Scriptural teaching and example, having made that primary which Christ and his apostles regarded as secondary. Zeal for their Master's cause, love of souls and self-denying labour for their conversion to the faith of Christ was the great object of their life and ministry, while the loaves and fishes, together with a life of ease, seem with the former to be matters of the first consideration.

Of such importance do I regard the disendowment of the Irish Church in relation to the general welfare of the country, that, from the day when such a measure is enacted, I believe that property in Ireland, as well as investments in Irish schemes and enterprises, will thereby become more valuable.

WILLIAM MORGAN.

Blackrock, Cork, July 14, 1868.

PREACHING.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—As a plain working man, and not accustomed to hear great preachers, I want to know whether the Gospel they have got in our large towns is something different to what we have got in our villages? Have they outstripped the truth which used to delight our grandmothers? or have our minds become rusty so that we cannot move along with the times? I sometimes hear Farmer Holdforth at the Methodist meeting, and I understand and feel, but when I hear the rev. B.A. at the Congregational Church, I comprehend little and care less.

Let me give an idea of what I mean. I went to chapel (no, to the Congregational church) this morning worn and sad, anxious for a rill from "the fountain of life." Instead of a warm-hearted or stirring sermon we had an essay read upon "Exemplifying the law of moral progression." Whether through weariness I slept, or through sadness I lost the sermon I cannot tell, but all I remember is the following broken sentences:—"persistence in subverting the principle"—"we must summon to our aid . . . moral progression"—"Its subversion is assimilated . . . in our moral debasement."

My children, more fortunate than their father, caught something about "flowers of Paradise," and as they thought the preacher was speaking of a garden called Paradise from which we get flowers and fruit, they were delighted and no doubt edified.

Now, Sir, as you live in a great town I want to know whether that is the evil of preaching you are accustomed to, and if so, whether you think it more edifying than the "Elevating of the Host," or the "Latin Prayers" of the Church of Rome? Is this the kind of preaching to rouse the conscience, to comfort the sorrowing, to strengthen the weary? Was it with preaching like this Wycliffe roused our own country in the frivolous times of the son of the Black Prince? Was it with such preaching as this the Monk of Erfurt "shook the world," or Saul of Tarsus made Felix tremble? If

this is the kind of preaching prevalent in our Congregational churches, or even common there, need we wonder at the complaint of our having lost our hold of the working classes? "Working classes," indeed! What classes of the people would such preaching ever hold? And what sort of congregations must they be which can endure it, not to say enjoy it? Pray, do London people talk in that way in their drawing-rooms, in their shops, or in the streets? We do not in the fields, and why should ministers in the pulpits? Are not the wants of man above the fashions of society? Are not the sorrows and sins of our fallen world more pressing than the graces (!) of oratory? Is it not time to admonish our preachers, if they are not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, or do not desire to conceal the poverty of their thoughts by the pretentiousness of their language, or if they would not drive away the poor from their places of worship—miscalled "sanctuaries"—to adopt a style of preaching that can be understood and felt by

A FATHER OF TEN CHILDREN.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

On Thursday an amendment to the standing orders of the House was adopted, in accordance with which no bill, which proposes to increase the rates on railways, can be read a second time until a report from the Board of Trade shall have been laid on the table. The LORD CHANCELLOR, appealed to by the Earl of Shaftesbury, said the Promissory Oaths Bill did not interfere with the doctrine of the supremacy of the Queen. By certain statutes of Elizabeth, the Queen's supremacy was binding on all whether the oath of supremacy were taken or not. The Commons' amendments to the bill were agreed to.

A discussion took place on the arrangements for the control department in the War Office. It was a subject of complaint that the position of Sir H. Storks had not been defined. The Earl of Longford said the Secretary of War was still the responsible head of the whole department. It was hoped that Sir H. Storks would still retain office, but under circumstances different to those first intended. The Duke of CAMBRIDGE complained of the Treasury minute as calculated to render the organisation of the War Office unsatisfactory. Lord STRATHNAIRN said the Treasury minute was at variance with the commission over which he presided. He suggested that Sir H. Storks, as controller-general, should have the position and rank of an under secretary of state, as was proposed in the first instance. In the course of some further observations, his lordship argued that though the Secretary of State was very properly considered the supreme military authority, he ought never to decide on questions of a purely military nature without communication with and, if possible, the concurrence of the commander-in-chief.

The House adjourned at a quarter to eight o'clock.

On Friday Lord REDESDALE moved an address for a copy of the Coronation Oath. He thought it important that the religious aspect of the question of the disestablishment of the Irish Church should be considered, instead of the merely political, as hitherto. He proceeded to criticise the theory of "Historicus" in the *Times* of Thursday, particularly in respect of the charge of profanity brought by that writer against the advocates of a contrary view. Considering that the oath was taken in the temple of God, that the Sovereign in taking it placed her hand on the Holy Gospels, and that she invoked the Divine assistance in performing and keeping the things which she had promised, he thought it impossible to deny that the obligation was not to the nation, but to God. The sovereign held no allegiance but to God and the law, and the law, having required her to take the oath, she was responsible to God for everything to which it bound her. The noble lord concluded by moving an address to the Crown for a copy of the Coronation Oath. The motion was agreed to.

Some remarks by Lord TRURO to the effect that the volunteer force had supplanted the militia as the basis of defence called up Lord Exeter and Lord Hardinge to support the claims of the militia. Lord LONGFORD thought that the recent concentration of the reserve forces under a single head would be found to produce satisfactory results.

In reply to Lord Denbigh, Lord MALMESBURY stated that orders had been given by the admiral on the station to Captain Bridge to raise the blockade which he had instituted of the port of Mazatlan.

BURIALS (IRELAND) BILL.

A discussion arose on the Archbishop of Armagh's amendment in committee on the Burials (Ireland) Bill, empowering the Lord-Lieutenant, on the application of the incumbent, to exempt new and district churchyards from the operation of the bill. The Archbishop urged his amendment on the score both of justice, the sites of such churchyards being commonly due to private liberality, and of propriety and convenience, they being often too small for the use of the whole parish. Lord KIMBERLEY opposed the clause as having the effect of taking away from the Roman Catholic and Dissenting parishioners a right hitherto possessed by them. Lord CLANRICARDE also resisted the insertion of the clause. On a division it was carried, but Lord KIMBERLEY gave notice of his intention to continue his opposition on the report being brought up.

The Bankruptcy Act Amendment Bill passed through committee.

The Revenue Officers Disabilities' Bill and the West Indies Bill were read a third time and passed.

A number of other bills were forwarded a stage, and the House adjourned to eight o'clock.

On Monday the LORD CHANCELLOR read a letter from Lord Napier of Magdala, acknowledging his profound sense of the honour conferred on himself and the forces engaged in Abyssinia by the resolution of thanks of the House.

There was some conversation about the present site of the statue of Mr. Canning, which is not satisfactory to Lord STRATHEDEN; but as no one else appears to entertain much objection to the position of the effigy the Government held out no hope that it would be changed.

The second reading of the Public Schools Bill was preceded by some discussion.

BURIALS (IRELAND) BILL.

On the report of amendments on this bill,

The Earl of KIMBERLEY moved that the 4th clause, as amended, be not retained. The clause was designed to apply to certain parish churches recently erected on new sites, the churchyards of which were purchased solely for the use of the persons worshipping in the churches. If that were so, the churchyards would be solely for the use of members of the Established Church; and in that case the bill would not and ought not to have any application to them. He was informed, however, that it went further, and that it would apply to certain small graveyards as to which it would result in positive inconvenience to exclude certain persons from being buried in them.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said the clause merely provided that any claim for exemption in a particular case should be determined by the Lord Lieutenant in Council, and contended that the conditions on which the clause was made to apply were in themselves reasonable. It was better, he thought, not to be too critical about the bill, for it set out upon an entirely wrong basis, its framers being in error in thinking there was any right of sepulchre whatsoever in the churchyards in question, except such as was conferred by Lord Plunkett's Act.

Lord CRANWORTH replied that whatever might be the foundation of the bill, the clause, as it stood, had no foundation at all, for it would not enable the Lord Lieutenant to do anything.

The Earl of LEITRIM objected to the bill generally, which he held to be wholly unnecessary, and calculated, if passed, to prove an apple of discord in Ireland.

The Marquis of WESTMEATH said the measure would only increase religious animosities in Ireland, and work most mischievously. It would repeal the necessary precautions provided by Lord Plunkett's Act without establishing any substitute for them; and now when the rev. prelate (the Archbishop of Armagh) proposed a most reasonable protective clause, which did not interfere with any private rights, the noble earl (Kimberley) must needs oppose it. That noble earl, because he happened casually to have once held high office in Ireland, thought he knew something of that country, and presumed to take charge of all its interests. God forbid that this unfortunate country should ever again fall under that noble earl's administration! (Laughter.)

The LORD CHANCELLOR said that persons who came to perform rites of burial when another burial according to the rites of the churchyard was proceeding, would be acting illegally, and would be punishable according to the existing law.

The Earl of KIMBERLEY said he would not trouble their lordships to divide.

The clause was then agreed to, and the report received.

Several bills were advanced a stage, and the House adjourned at half-past seven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On Wednesday the House, after throwing out the Investment of Trust Funds Supplemental Bill, devoted several hours to settling the clauses of the Sale of Poisons and Pharmacy Act Amendment Bill. Numerous amendments were made in the clauses and the schedule, and the chief of these included common poisons used for domestic purposes in the clause which originally prohibited only the sale of subtle poisons used as medicines to persons unknown to the druggist. This was done chiefly at the instance of Mr. LOWE, and on his motion also new clauses were inserted, providing for the registration of chemists and druggists, and extending the adulteration of Food and Drink Act to the sale of medicines.

The rest of the sitting was mainly occupied by a third or fourth discussion on the rating of mines, *apropos* of Mr. P. Wyndham's bill, which was eventually withdrawn.

The Public Schools Bill was read a third time and passed, and some other bills were forwarded a stage without discussion.

The House adjourned at five minutes to six o'clock.

THE SOUTHERN RAILWAYS.

At the twelve o'clock sitting on Thursday, on the consideration of the Lords' amendments to the South-Eastern and London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Companies Bill, it appeared that their lordships had struck out a clause enabling the company to divide a certain portion of the ordinary stock into two classes—preferred and deferred. On the motion

of Mr. WATKIN, the House disagreed with this amendment of their Lordships, and appointed a committee to state their reasons for doing so.

ARMY ADMINISTRATION.

Major ANSON proposed a committee to inquire into the management of the Royal Gun Factory. Sir JOHN PAKINGTON assented to the committee, but declined to serve on it personally.

Colonel JERVIS moved for a copy of the draft regulations for the Central Department originally sent in by the War Office to the Treasury, together with any memorandum thereupon by the Assistant Under-Secretary for War, together with the reply thereto by the Controller-in-Chief. The papers were required by him to show the mistake of the transactions that had taken place in reference to Sir Henry Storks, and to afford information regarding the ruling power in the War Office. Sir J. PAKINGTON complained of the attacks made on the War Office; he had heard that these attacks came from a person in the office, but declined to believe in such baseness; adding, however, significantly, that if such a delinquent were really in his office, let him be pointed out, and he would know how to deal with him. He could have no objection personally to see the papers asked for on the table, but declined to produce them, because by doing so he would be establishing a most dangerous, prejudicial, and injurious precedent. Colonel JERVIS having intimated his intention to press his motion, Mr. DISRAELI himself took the matter in hand, and appealed to the House in the interest of the public service to refuse the papers. The motion was negatived.

Other motions were withdrawn, in deference to a suggestion from Mr. DISRAELI, who, on being appealed to relative to the order of business, stated very significantly that he would not advise her Majesty to prorogue Parliament until the Corrupt Practices Bill had been passed.

In Committee of Supply the last vote of the Estimates, for the pay and allowances of the Army retired list, was agreed to.

At the evening sitting, the report of the Select Committee on the Electric Telegraphs Bill was brought up.

THE CATTLE-MARKET BILL.

The second adjourned debate on the Metropolitan Foreign Cattle-market Bill was resumed by Mr. MOFFATT, who urged that the bill was a "protectionist" device, and would raise the price of meat. Sir J. C. JERVOISE opposed the bill, which, with the whole Privy Council system, he held to be an entire mistake, and Mr. T. PAGET supported the bill. Mr. HADFIELD moved to adjourn the debate, alleging not only the difficulty of carrying the bill at this late period of the session, but the lukewarmness of the Cabinet. Where are the Ministers? Mr. Hadfield cried, pointing to the Treasury Bench, on which Lord R. Montagu sat alone. In replying to this attack, the VICE-PRESIDENT characterised the peculiar opposition offered to the bill as an organised system of "dodges and delays"—which, under the pressure of a call to order, he modified to "a straining of the forms of the House."

Mr. FRESHFIELD and Colonel SYKES spoke in favour of the bill; Mr. GILPIN, Mr. GIBSON, and others against it, and Mr. GLADSTONE argued against substituting a rigid law in place of the elastic system of the Privy Council. To this Mr. DISRAELI replied that Orders in Council would not meet this case. Though the Privy Council could establish these markets in any provincial town, they could not deal with London except by legislation. Eventually, Mr. HADFIELD withdrew his motion. The debate on the bill was continued by Mr. JACOB BRIGHT, who contended that the bill would raise the price of meat not only to the metropolitan but provincial consumers, and that the Privy Council system, which had stamped out the cattle-plague, would suffice to keep it away. He urged Mr. Disraeli not to commit a second Conservative mistake "by interposing between the people and its supply of food." The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER supported the bill as the best means, though he admitted it was but a choice of evils, of stopping contagion and of lowering the price of meat by opening the Metropolitan Market.

The bill was opposed by Mr. CLAY, who described it as a mere emanation of the desire to get 2s. per head extra for cattle, and by Mr. H. A. BRUCE, who was of opinion that the Privy Council system would suffice for all the needs of the case and pointed to France as a proof that the rinderpest could be kept down without these oppressive restrictions. Mr. AYRTON also condemned the bill and its authors after his usual sweeping fashion.

Mr. DISRAELI, in summing up the debate, defined the bill as one of precaution, not of protection, and explained that it was only meant to do for London what the Privy Council had already the power of insisting on in the case of other ports. As to the financial objections, Mr. Disraeli anticipated that there would be little difficulty in finding the means for carrying out a measure so necessary for the public welfare.

Mr. BAZLEY moved the adjournment of the debate, but yielding to a suggestion of Mr. Gladstone, did not press it.

The House then divided on the resolution proposed by Mr. M. GIBSON some two or three weeks ago, that any measure of this character ought to be general, and it was rejected by a majority of 109—191 to 82.

Mr. BAZLEY at once renewed his motion to adjourn the debate, on which Mr. GLADSTONE made a long speech, repeating his former argument and illustration from the statistics of Hull that a system of restrictions had almost extinguished the foreign trade; but especially he insisted that before going into com-

mittee the Government should explain how the money was to be found for carrying out the scheme. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER dealt in detail with Mr. Gladstone's Hull statistics, and replied to the financial difficulty started by him, by pointing out that if the bill were restored to its original shape, which gave the surplus profits to the market authority, either the Corporation of London or the Metropolitan Board of Works would gladly undertake the duty. Mr. HENLEY urged the House to go into committee, and Sir C. RUSSELL and Mr. DE GREY joined in pressing the Government to postpone the prorogation for the purpose of passing the bill.

On a division, Mr. BAZLEY's motion for adjournment was defeated by 100—155 to 55, upon which Mr. COWEN renewed the same motion in another form—that the "House do now adjourn," and on this there followed an animated struggle, protracted for more than an hour and a half, on the question of adjournment. Mr. COWEN's motion was defeated by 93—131 to 38; a third motion for adjournment by Mr. CHEETHAM was negatived by 100—130 to 30; and a fourth by Mr. TAYLOR by 101—132 to 31. Mr. CANDLISH made a fifth motion at a quarter before three, but withdrew it in deference to the representations of Lord ELCHO, Mr. GIBSON, and others, on behalf of Mr. Speaker, who had been in the chair fourteen hours and a half.

The House then went into committee on the bill, and this stage obtained, the further progress of the bill was adjourned.

Some other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned at four minutes to three o'clock.

SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS.

On Friday, Mr. W. E. FORSTER asked whether the Government was prepared to suggest any measure by which the act for regulating the emigration of South Sea islanders might be supplemented by a safeguard against illicit practices in entrapping those natives from their homes. Mr. ADDERLEY said that with regard to the emigration a very satisfactory act had been passed by the Queensland Legislature. The safeguard against kidnapping consisted in the circumstance that the ship carrying the islanders must be licensed, and an officer on board, appointed by the Government of Queensland, must be satisfied that every native conveyed by the ship had a certificate from a Minister, consul, or some known person, certifying that the native emigrated freely. If these conditions were not complied with the owner of the ship was liable at Queensland to a penalty of 20l. for every violation of them. The authorities of the Colonial Office were in communication with the Government of Queensland with the view of ascertaining whether the regulations might be made more strict, and he believed that all abuses would be prevented.

SCHOOLS INQUIRY COMMISSION.

In reply to Mr. Forster, Mr. HARDY said that the commission had collected a great deal of information, but the Government had not been yet able properly to consider it. The matter was one which any Government must deal with, as there were many points connected with it which could only be settled by legislation.

THE FRANCHISE.

Mr. T. HUGHES asked whether it was with the sanction of the Government that the tax-collectors of the south of London were issuing notices that unless the assessed taxes due on the 20th of March last were paid on or before the 20th of July the persons neglecting to pay would be disqualified from voting at the ensuing election. Mr. SCLATER-BOOTH could only say that the Government had given no sanction to the proceeding.

The report of Ways and Means was brought up by Mr. Dodson, read, and agreed to, and Mr. Dodson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Sclater-Booth were directed to bring in the Appropriation Bill founded thereon.

THE CORRUPT PRACTICES BILL.

The remainder of the morning sitting was taken up with this bill. In the discussion which ensued, there was an evident desire to render the measure as severe and stringent as possible. Mr. RUSSELL GURNEY and others had more than once to interpose with a warning that to make the law too rigorous would only be to defeat the ends in view, since it would be practically inoperative. Clause 46 renders any election void in which the candidate has employed as agent any person whom he knew to have been within seven years found guilty of corrupt practices by any competent legal tribunal, by a judge under this act, or by commissioners inquiring into the subject. This, however, did not satisfy the House. Disqualification was extended to all who have been reported guilty of corrupt practices by a Committee of the House of Commons. Clause 47, which inflicts certain penalties and disqualifications on persons found guilty of bribery, was amended on Mr. AYRTON's suggestion, so as to ensure that the person so convicted shall have had notice and an opportunity to defend himself.

There was a sharp discussion on the proposal to give the election judges a bonus of 500l. a year each. In support of the allowance Mr. Disraeli urged that the duties imposed on the judges would be not only onerous and unpleasant in themselves, but attended with considerable personal inconvenience, such as separation from their families, living in uncomfortable country inns, and the like. It was hoped that the old judges would undertake these duties, as it was wise to make the arrangements as agreeable as possible to them. Mr. WHITEHEAD thought that when additional duties were imposed they should always be accompanied by additional remuneration. On the other hand, the allowance was objected to by Mr. CARDWELL and Mr. BOUVIER as disparaging to the dignity

of the bench; Mr. LOCKE stigmatised it as a bribe; Mr. GLADSTONE and Mr. HENLEY agreed that either all the judges should have it or none. The clause was rejected by 123 against 96. A clause, moved by Sir William Hutt, putting into a statutory form the resolution annually passed against the interference of peers at elections, and declaring it to be a misdemeanour, elicited an amusing little speech from Mr. DISRAELI, who justified the title of peers to the ordinary rights of citizenship and referred to the exertions of various members of the Upper House, both lay and spiritual, in behalf of Mr. Gladstone at the last election for the University of Oxford, and the interference of the Duke of Argyll as chairman of a committee in regard to the election of a member for the University of Edinburgh. He allowed, sarcastically, that it was a great concession to exempt peers from being tried for offences under this clause by justices of the peace, but suggested that it would be as well not to excite a prejudice against the measure in the other House by attaching a provision which would naturally be resented. Mr. GLADSTONE advised that the clause should be withdrawn, which was accordingly done.

The further progress of the bill was then adjourned. In the course of the sitting Mr. DISRAELI announced that, though he had not absolutely abandoned the hope of bringing Scotland and Ireland within the scope of the bill, he thought that, as it was now of an experimental character, it might be as well to observe its effect in England before carrying it any further.

At the evening sitting there was a very scanty attendance of members. There was some talk about Greenwich Hospital, extra clerks in the Custom House, and the Irish Commission on Land Tenure, on which Lord MAXO said would have much the same instructions as the Devon Commission, and no doubt, among other things, they would endeavour to ascertain what was the best size of holding to develop the agricultural property of the country. This led to a general protest from Sir J. GRAY against the appointment of a commission. The House then went into committee on the Poor Relief Bill, but so hotly was every point contested that at the end of an hour and a half, when progress was reported, only three clauses had been agreed to.

The other orders were disposed of, and the House adjourned at half-past two o'clock.

THE CORRUPT PRACTICES BILL.

The House held a sitting on Saturday to consider this bill, and proceeded with the consideration of the new clauses.

The first was a clause moved by Sir F. GOLDSMID, enacting that all the votes given for a candidate who is reported to be guilty of bribery shall be deemed to have been thrown away, in the same manner as if he had been incapable of election, but with the proviso that no other candidate at the same election shall be declared duly elected unless he has polled one-third of the registered electors. The SOLICITOR-GENERAL opposed it for the same reason which he had urged against other proposals—its extreme stringency, and its injustice to the pure majority, which might practically be disfranchised for the sins of half-a-dozen corrupt voters. Mr. LOWE replied to the Solicitor-General, and on a division, the committee rejected it by 79 to 48.

The next clause moved was by Mr. FAWCETT, directing that the expenses of the returning officers for hustings, polling booths, &c., shall be defrayed out of the county or borough rates, with a proviso, to guard against mere vexatious contests, that no person shall be nominated who has not deposited 100l. (Mr. Fawcett said he was not particular as to the exact sum) with the returning officer the day before the nomination. Mr. DISRAELI, though he allowed that it was a proposal deserving serious consideration, strongly urged the committee not to agree to it now, on two grounds. In the first place he thought local rates had been burdened very excessively already, and they ought to be left to lie fallow for a time; and, in the next, this was a bill directed against corrupt practices, to which the legal payments of returning officers could have no relevancy.

Mr. GLADSTONE, on the other hand, supported the clause as a step towards reducing the expenses of elections, and still more as an indication of the opinion of Parliament that a seat in the House was not an individual distinction and advantage so much as the performance of a public duty. But, more particularly he urged its importance to the artisans and working men who might desire to return representatives of their own class, of whom he hoped to see some in the next Parliament, and who had already sufficient obstacles in their way.

Mr. MILL also supported the clause as a security against the influence of wealth, predicting that without some such provision, with the extended constituencies, we were in danger of drifting into a "plutocracy." The committee divided on the preliminary stage that the clause "be read a second time," and this was carried by a majority of 9—78 to 69.

Mr. W. BEAUMONT proposed that half only of the returning officer's expenses be thrown on the rates; but, in deference to a very generally expressed opinion, he did not press it.

After this some time was occupied in a rather confused discussion of the details of Mr. Fawcett's clause. Mr. BOUVIER and others raised formidable objections to the proviso requiring the previous deposit of 100l., as abolishing the constitutional right of any elector to propose a candidate on the day of nomination. In the end, the proviso was temporarily withdrawn, and a division being taken on the question that the clause be added to the bill, it was carried by 8—84 to 76.

Mr. CLAY next proposed his clause, requiring from every member on taking his seat a declaration that he has not been privy to any corrupt or illegal practice, and affixing to the making of a false declaration the penalty of 500*l*. After a good deal of discussion, the clause was rejected by a majority of 40—85 to 45.

It was now half-past four, and the committee had just disposed of three only out of the twenty-five new clauses on the paper, when Mr. DISRAELI interposed, and earnestly urged that, considering the great importance of closing the committee that day, the other new clauses should be brought up on the report, which was fixed for this day (Wednesday). On that understanding the committee was concluded.

Several unopposed bills were forwarded a stage, and the House adjourned at five o'clock.

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN SPAIN.

On Monday, Mr. BAINES asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it was true that Julian de Vargas, a Spanish schoolmaster at Malaga, had been imprisoned in a felon's prison since the 12th of March, and was now under prosecution by the Fiscal, who demanded a sentence of seventeen months' imprisonment, for having in his house a Spanish Bible and Testament and a few French Protestant books not of a controversial character; and whether he would use the friendly influence of this Government with the Government of Spain to obtain an abandonment of this religious persecution, so calculated to offend the public feeling of the rest of Europe, where the rights of conscience were now acknowledged by the law of all countries—Protestant, Roman Catholic, and even Mahomedan.

Lord STANLEY said he believed that the facts of the case to which the hon. member referred were these. A man named Vargas, a schoolmaster at Malaga, was now under prosecution by the public officers of Spain. There was some discrepancy between the several statements that had reached him from various sources as to the precise nature of the charges against this person. The charge against him, he believed, was not that of having Protestant books in his possession, but that he, being a schoolmaster, was alleged to have taught Protestant doctrines to the pupils under his charge, and the fact of his having certain Protestant books in his possession was only brought forward as evidence in support of the charge. The proceedings instituted against him had been instituted by the local authorities upon their own motion, and not by the Spanish Government, who did not even appear when the matter was first mentioned to know that such proceedings had occurred. With regard to the latter part of the question, he need hardly remind the hon. member that this was a very delicate matter for the Government to meddle with, because, the man being a Spanish subject and subject to Spanish laws, whatever the Government might think of the policy of the proceeding, they had absolutely no right to interfere. Any communication between the two Governments upon the subject must be one of an entirely friendly character; and even in that case we had to guard most carefully against even the appearance of wishing to dictate to the Spanish Government. (Cheers.) The only ground upon which diplomatic action could be founded in a case of this kind was that such proceedings tended to create a good deal of excitement among a Protestant community, which might result in international ill feeling. Upon that ground alone had he felt himself at liberty in a perfectly friendly and unofficial manner to advise the Spanish Government to deal with Vargas with as much leniency as was possible under the circumstances. (Hear, hear.)

MR. FAWCETT'S CLAUSE.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER, referring to some rumour which he alleged to be current, asked whether the Government intended, on the "Report" of the Corrupt Practices Bill, to strike out Mr. Fawcett's clause agreed to on Saturday; and Mr. DISRAELI replied rather tartly, but amid considerable cheering, that to put such a question on a mere anonymous rumour was "unusual, unparliamentary, and inconvenient," and declined to give any answer. Mr. GLADSTONE, however, pressed the inquiry in a different form—if any such attempt were made, would notice be given of it?—and, in reply to this, Mr. DISRAELI appealed somewhat indignantly to his general conduct of business as a proof that he was not likely to take the House by surprise. Certainly no such course would be taken without due Parliamentary notice.

IRISH REGISTRATION BILL.

The first business on the paper was the Irish Registration Bill, the main provisions of which were passed through committee with very few amendments. But to Part III. of the bill, which provides for the creation of new polling places in counties by special sessions, a determined opposition was offered by the Irish Liberal members, who hinted that Lord Mayo had tried to steal a march on the Irish members, most of whom had gone home, and had been obliged to return to the House to oppose it. Mr. HADFIELD, who joined in the discussion, declared that the sole object of the proposal was to assist the landlords in coercing their tenants to vote against their will. Mr. Gladstone, Mr. C. Fortescue, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Cogan, and others enforced these objections, and on the other side the Earl of MAYO, repudiating the imputation of party motives, explained that at present, owing to a defect in the law, it was impossible to obtain additional polling places, however much they might be needed, and in some counties voters had to go twenty-five and thirty miles to the poll. No change was proposed in the law, but merely additional facilities for carrying out an act at present inoperative. Ultimately the first clause of this part of the bill—clause 34—was negatived by a majority of 10—84 to 74. Upon this Lord MAYO withdrew the other clauses,

throwing on the Opposition the responsibility of the bloodshed which might occur at the next election for want of these additional polling places—a burden which Mr. C. FORTESCUE readily accepted, believing that there would be no disturbance unless the Irish landlords took some violent means to support Protestant ascendancy by Roman Catholic votes.

THE CATTLE MARKET BILL.

The House then went into committee on the Metropolitan Foreign Cattle Market Bill, but it was nearly two hours before the preliminary question, "That the preamble be postponed," was disposed of. Mr. CRAWFORD appealed to the Premier to drop the bill, seeing that there was no chance of passing it this year, and Mr. HEADLAM made a similar appeal; but Mr. DISRAELI declined, and urged the House, after the full discussion the principle of the bill had undergone, to deal now practically with the clauses.

In the animated and at times acrimonious discussion which followed, the arguments against the principle of the measure were urged for the fourth or fifth time by Mr. Ayrton, Mr. Melly, Mr. Candlish, Mr. W. E. Forster, and others, and imputations were freely thrown out that its supporters were striving to return to the old protective system, and that the Government was obstinately persisting with it for mere electioneering purposes—to go to the country with the reputation of "farmers' friends." On the other hand, Mr. Henley, Mr. Kendal, Colonel North, Mr. R. W. Duff, and others, charged the Opposition with "factious obstruction," and, treating the question as a conflict between "town and country," exhorted the Government not to allow the bill to be talked down by the metropolitan members, but to keep Parliament sitting until it was passed. Mr. GLADSTONE also endeavoured to induce the Government to withdraw the bill, and chiefly on the financial objections to the scheme. It was useless to press it, for a second bill would be needed next year to provide the funds, and the new Parliament would not hold itself bound by what was done now.

Lord R. MONTAGU said a few words in reply, and the House went on then to consider the clauses of the bill.

On clause 2, Mr. M. GIBSON moved to except sheep from the operation of the bill, urging all his old arguments against its general scope, and imputing to its promoters the selfish desire to exclude foreign cattle altogether for the profit of British agriculturists. Lord R. MONTAGU offered to limit the clause to sheep imported in the same vessels with cattle; but this did not content Mr. Ayrton and others of the Opposition, and on a division being taken the amendment was negatived by 134 to 52. Clause 2 was agreed to with the restriction suggested by Lord R. Montagu.

At a quarter to one a motion to report progress was made by Mr. WATKIN, but defeated by 132 to 37.

In clause 3, Mr. LOCKE moved an amendment with the view of getting rid of the commissioners; but after a good deal of discussion—listened to with great impatience by the supporters of the bill—it was rejected by a majority of 87—113 to 26. Some misunderstanding having arisen as to a supposed promise of Lord J. Manners, that when this question was decided he would not ask the committee to go on, Mr. LEFEVRE moved to report progress, and the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER expressed his willingness to accede to the proposal. The more ardent supporters of the bill upon the back benches on the Ministerial side of the House would not agree to the adoption of this course, and a discussion took place, in which Lord J. Manners, the Earl of Mayo, Lord R. Montagu, Mr. Sclater-Booth, and the Lord Advocate, voted against the motion, while the Chancellor of the Exchequer and General Lindsay (an officer of the household) supported it. Under these circumstances the motion was rejected by a minority of 55—91 to 36. Mr. HENLEY then came to the rescue, and recommended that the motion should be agreed to, and this recommendation was backed by two or three members of the Government. Notwithstanding these appeals, the more unreasonable friends of the bill challenged another division, and the motion was negatived by a majority of 10—52 to 33. At the close of the division, neither the Chancellor of the Exchequer nor Lord R. Montagu, who had charge of the bill, took their places on the Treasury Bench, but still their supporters cried out to "go on." Sir J. Pakington, however, was there, and at his instance the committee at last reported progress. The other orders were rapidly disposed of, and the House adjourned at three o'clock.

Mr. TRAIN is still in the debtors' prison in Dublin. Another unsuccessful attempt to obtain his release was made on Friday last.

FALL OVER THE CLIFF.—About midnight on Saturday last a man named George Mayne, about thirty-five years of age, was observed by a police-constable walking along the edge of the East Cliff, Ramsgate, and when he had passed the Augusta stairs he suddenly disappeared. The constable at once concluded that he had fallen over the cliff, and immediately made his way to the bottom, and there he found the man lying between the cliff and a railway carriage, and, marvellous to relate, although he had fallen a distance of some sixty feet, he was still alive, but insensible. Such was the force with which he fell that he broke some of the iron steps of the railway-carriage, the wooden footboard, and one of the steel rails supporting it. Assistance was procured, and the poor fellow was conveyed to the Seamen's Infirmary, when it was found that all his ribs were broken, and his lungs injured. He still lingers in a very precarious condition.

Foreign and Colonial.

AMERICA.

Some interesting news has been received relative to the Democratic Convention at New York. President Johnson, in his answer to the letter of some Democrats requesting him to allow himself to be put in nomination, merely informed his correspondents that he was not ambitious of "further service—I may say, indeed, of further endurance," in the position of President. But if the people chose to confirm his policy he would continue to act for them. The Democratic Convention seemed more disposed to take him as their candidate than any one would have predicted six months ago. He came out second on the first and second ballots, Mr. Pendleton being first. It was not until the fourth ballot that Mr. Seymour's name was introduced at all. Among the other names placed before the Convention were those of Senators Doolittle, Reverdy Johnson, and Hendricks. Mr. Adams, ex-Minister to Great Britain, was also tried. Pendleton was far ahead throughout the first day. On the nineteenth ballot the friends of Mr. Pendleton, finding it was impossible that he should obtain the necessary two-thirds vote, withdrew his name. The chances of General Hancock and Mr. Hendricks were then about equal, but on the twenty-second ballot the Ohio delegation nominated Mr. Seymour, the chairman of the Convention, who thereupon received the unanimous vote of the Assembly.

The Democratic "platform" is very roughly handled by the New York papers. The *Herald* says the Democrats act as though they had never heard of the great changes caused by the war, but "twaddle on in the same arrogant self-sufficiency and wilful blindness" the nation four years ago absolutely repudiated them for. The *New York Times* says the platform is a mixture "of fact and fustian, of courage and duplicity"; bold to the verge of rashness in regard to finance, equivocal in its allusion to reconstruction, confused in its exposition of fiscal and administrative reforms, and diffuse and turgid in its arraignment of the ruling party. The *Tribune* is of opinion that the platform ostentatiously beats the air. It denounces military rule when the departmental commanders are surrendering their power; it calls for the withdrawal of the freedmen's bureau when Congress is providing for the closing of that bureau; "it seems anxious to atone, by the vehemence with which it denounces whatever has passed or is passing away, for its cowardly equivocations and subterfuges with regard to tangible and living issues." The financial views of the Democrats are denounced in even stronger terms.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The King of Sweden has sent four landscapes to the Fine Arts Exhibition now open at Stockholm.

Great opposition is being offered to the voting of supplies in the Victoria Parliament, which reassembled on the 29th ult.

We learn from the India papers, that owing to the excessively hot weather, nineteen persons have died at Kurrachee from heat apoplexy, and six at Hyderabad (Scinde) from the same cause.

The Prince Karageorgewitz, who is suspected of complicity in the murder of Prince Michael of Serbia, has refused to obey the summons of the Belgrade tribunal to answer the charge.

The Duke and Duchess of Montpensier reached Lisbon on Saturday, but will not stay there, it is reported, as the Spanish Government objects to having them so near as the Portuguese territory. They will therefore come to England.

The *Cork Reporter* states that James Stephens has returned to Paris, having completed an engagement which he had entered into with a Russian railway company as an "engineer." He is now again giving lessons in English.

According to the Vienna journals the Austrian empire is about to disappear from the political vocabulary. In place of it we are to read the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. This decision is said to have been come to at the last Ministerial council held under the presidency of the Emperor in Vienna.

A popular demonstration has taken place at Trieste against M. Edouard de Bach, governor of that city, and brother of the Minister to whom Austria is indebted for the Concordat. The populace attacked the house of the Pope's consul, and the demonstration was altogether anti-Papal in character.

During the illness of the Queen of Madagascar, her European physicians recommended her to go to the mineral springs of Tintingue, at the eastern extremity of the island; but the palace sorcerers, after consulting the spirits, persuaded her not to go. They advised a plaster, made of a shred of the high priest's gown, which was applied; but the charm failed to give relief.

SIBERIAN EXILES.—The President of Western Siberia estimates at 12,000 the convicts banished every year, of whom more than a sixth are women and children. The journey is performed on foot. A fifth die on the way, or in the hospitals. The distance is about 2,600 miles, about 280 days' walking; the time to the more distant governments one year two months and a half.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN PRUSSIA.—A letter from Berlin says it is probable that the abolition of the punishment of death will be discussed in the next session of the Prussian Parliament, and adds that King William is himself known to be decidedly averse to capital punishment.

FENIANISM IN AMERICA.—The *Standard* says there are good accounts from America as to Fenianism. The expedition to Canada is said to have been adjourned indefinitely from want of funds; and the

cause generally is languishing from the same infirmity. Supplies are more than ever difficult to collect. The Americans have closed their purse-strings, and even the Irish in the United States are devoting their earnings to more legitimate and productive purposes.

AN INTERESTING PURCHASE.—"The Princess de la Tour d'Auvergne," says the *Presse*, "has just made over gratuitously to the French Government a piece of land which she had purchased on the Mount of Olives, and which, according to tradition, is the spot on which Jesus Christ taught the Lord's Prayer to His disciples. The donation of that site, so rich in sacred recollections, is made with the sole condition that the Princess shall be allowed to complete the erection of the buildings similar to those of the Campo Santo at Pisa, in conformity with the plan deposited at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

DEATH FROM THE BITE OF A TIGER SNAKE.—The Melbourne correspondent of the *Times* says that considerable sensation has been excited in Melbourne by the lamentable death of Mr. Drummond, a police magistrate, from the bite of a tiger snake. Against the remonstrances of friends, and for the purpose, as he proposed, of detecting a charlatan named Shires who was exhibiting about the town by allowing himself to be bitten by snakes, and who professed to possess and apply a sovereign remedy against all snake poisons, Mr. Drummond persisted in being bitten by one of Shires' snakes, declaring that they must be harmless, and that Shires was only an impostor. Shires was at first averse from allowing Mr. Drummond to be bitten, and warned him of the risk he ran; but Mr. Drummond would not be put off. He was bitten above the wrist, and a few minutes afterwards he fainted away, although the so-called remedy was at once rubbed over the part bitten. Mr. Drummond, however, recovered in a few minutes from his stupor, and very shortly afterwards appeared to be quite well. He went home, but was followed by two medical friends, who, apprehensive of serious consequences, were anxious to apply the usual remedies in such cases. Mr. Drummond, however, refused their proffered attentions and went to bed. The next morning all the usual symptoms of snake poisoning appeared upon him, he became rapidly worse, and he died from exhaustion within a very few hours.

EXCITING SCENE AT A BULL-FIGHT.—The *Gibraltar Chronicle* of June 30, contains the following:—"We hear that the bull fights on Sunday last at Cadiz were so excessively bad that an *émeute* of rather terrifying dimensions occurred in the bull ring. As far as the *cuadrilla* was concerned the audience had no cause for complaint. Gordito and Lagartijo were both there, and the *terceros* were all above the average. Unfortunately the bulls were considerably below par. The first two were indifferent, and the third was so chicken-hearted that he was driven out of the ring by the execrations of the spectators, the *Autoridad* being compelled to give way before the vehement cries of "fuera," which resounded from every bench. Although the fourth bull required "fuego," it was eventually killed, but on the entrance of the fifth bull almost instantaneously the whole of the vast mass rose as one man, and, shouting "Fuera," "fuera," with stentorian lungs, tore in ribands the whole of the woodwork of the Plaza. Everything gave way before their rage. Seats, barricades, and pillars were rent asunder to supply the infuriated populace with weapons. Armed with these logs, and planks, and splinters, they descended into the ring, and for the space of ten minutes or more proceeded themselves to bait the bull in amateur fashion, raining on him a torrent of blows, and stupefying him with their repeated assaults. Not that he surrendered at discretion. Several times he charged, but always without effect, and at last stood at bay, cowed and terrified. It was now high time for the intervention of the authorities. The assembly sounded, and a large body of Guardia Civil marching into the arena resolutely proceeded to clear it. Although brave enough before El Toro, the rioters did not dare to face the guardians of the peace. They turned and fled without striking a blow, leaving the ring empty, and the bull to be despatched by the new comers; for it is almost needless to state that the *terceros*—*escapadas*, *picadores*, *banderilleros*, one and all—had disappeared at the first symptoms of disturbance. The *media luna* was produced, and several unskilled and futile efforts were made to hamstring the enemy by this most barbarous of weapons. It was eventually necessary to call in the assistance of some of the *mozos* of the company, who disabled the bull; yet, with tendons cut and limping painfully, he managed to hobble out of the ring. Long before this the house itself had been deserted by the most respectable of the audience, who had feared the most serious consequences. A further order was issued to complete the clearance of the plaza, which was effected *vi et armis*.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON ON POLITICAL ASSASSINATION.—The *Nord* contains the following letter, dated Paris, July 12th:—"At Fontainebleau, a few days ago, the conversation turned upon the tragical end of Prince Michael of Serbia, and the manifestoes of Felix Pyat, inciting to the assassination of the Emperor. The fear was expressed lest such detestable examples and such odious excitations should occasion some fresh attempt against the head of the State. The Emperor held the contrary opinion; and as every look turned towards him seemed to claim the secret of his confidence, he spoke in these terms, which we have been able to obtain, and which we endeavour to reproduce with the utmost possible exactness:—

In the position I occupy life has only one attraction, that of being useful to the prosperity and grandeur of France. As long as I live I shall pursue no other object,

and Providence, which hitherto has visibly sustained me, will not abandon me. My fate, moreover, is in its hands. It will decide whether my life or my death can best serve the interests of the country. In presence of so many parties animated by rival ambitions and subversive passions, there is no security for France unless she remains closely united to my dynasty, which is the only symbol of order and progress. It might happen that a violent death, if such befel me, would contribute much more to the consolidation of my dynasty than the prolongation of my days. Just see what happens; the man who instigates, or who commits a political assassination, who makes himself at once judge and executioner, always produces a contrary effect to that he wishes to attain; it is the punishment of his crime, it is inevitable. What has just taken place in Serbia is the evident proof of this. The conspirators hoped, by killing Prince Michael, to bring another dynasty into power; they have strengthened, for a long period, the family of the Obrenovitch. Here, at home, if one of the many attempts against King Louis Philippe had succeeded there is every probability that the House of Orleans would still be reigning over France. If I fell under the assassin's blow to-morrow or to-day, the people with one voice would acclaim my son; and even if all the Imperial family disappeared, they would go forth, as in Serbia, in search of some little nephew heir to my name, some Milano or other, to raise up anew the flag of the empire, revenge the murder, and sanction once more this truth, that the parties which stain their hands in blood never profit by their crime. I can thus regard the future without fear. Whether I live or die, my life or my death will be equally useful to France, for the mission which has been imposed upon me will be accomplished either by me or mine.

These words (says the correspondent of the *Nord* in conclusion) were uttered in the midst of a rather numerous circle; some of the persons who were present repeated them to us. We have thought that they would not be without interest to your readers, to whom we can guarantee their complete authenticity. They have been copied into the *Moniteur de Soir*.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AT THE TRINITY HOUSE.

On Monday night the Duke of Edinburgh presided at the annual dinner of the Trinity House. His Royal Highness had previously taken the usual oath as Master for the year, and had received and replied to a congratulatory address from the corporation. The Prince of Wales, who had been sworn in as a younger brother of the corporation, was present at the banquet. In proposing the health of the Queen and royal family, the Duke said:—

It is a very great satisfaction to me on this second occasion of presiding at this dinner to be again supported by my brother, who, however, on this occasion does so as a new member of the corporation. The Prince of Wales is fond of change, and having for some time been my elder, is now transformed into my "younger brother."

The Prince of Wales in responding said:—

I return my best thanks to my illustrious relative for the kind way in which he has proposed this toast, and for coupling with it the health of the Princess of Wales and that of the other members of the Royal family. I am very grateful for the reception which has been accorded him in this room, and I have great pleasure in being here this evening. This is not the first time I have been present at the hospitable board of Trinity House. It is the second time I have supported my brother, and I come here now in a double capacity, for I have the honour of being present to-day as a member of this corporation, and as his "younger brother." I am sure I may say, even in his presence, that it is a source of the greatest satisfaction to me to be present at the first dinner at which he has presided since his return from Australia. I know I am only speaking his wishes when I say that, although the season is now far advanced, he thought, consistently with the duties he had to perform on board the *Galatea*, now off Osborne, he could not refrain from taking the chair at the anniversary dinner of this ancient corporation, of which he has the honour of being the Master.

The Duke of Edinburgh, in proposing the toast of the "Army and Navy," and the Duke of Cambridge in responding to it, both referred to the presence of Lord Napier of Magdala, and spoke of him in complimentary terms. In responding to the toast of his health, the royal chairman said that the duties which he had to perform as the master of that ancient corporation were certainly limited, and consisted mainly in presiding at that dinner, but the interest he took in the working of the corporation and in the performance of its very important duties was very great.

Those duties (he continued) are so intimately connected with the service to which I have the honour to belong, that I cannot help feeling a deep interest in the fact of being master of so valuable a corporation. Another reason which induces me to feel that interest is that the corporation represents to a great degree the mercantile marine of the country. Now if I, by being master of this corporation, can in any way connect the two services of the royal navy and the mercantile marine more closely together, I shall consider that that is an end which it is most desirable to attain. I cannot, in returning thanks for this toast, refrain from alluding for a moment to what the deputy-master has said respecting the unfortunate occurrence in New South Wales; but I feel confident that the solitary act of one man in that colony need not leave any doubt in the minds of the people of England of the loyalty which exists throughout that distant portion of her Majesty's dominions, and of the love which is felt towards her person and the throne.

Lord Stanley returned thanks for the toast of her Majesty's Ministers. His Royal Highness, he said, had told them that this was not a political meeting, and for his (Lord Stanley's) part he thanked Heaven that it was not, for in point of fact it was far

too hot to talk politics even to a friendly audience. He quite understood that the compliment paid to the Ministry did not in any way express approval of what they had done. But perhaps they would do them the justice to believe that they had honestly and faithfully, according to the measure of their capacity, endeavoured to discharge the arduous, laborious, and responsible duties which devolved upon the Executive Government. If it were not for the notion of being able to do some good in their time and for the gratification of a noble ambition—namely, that of obtaining public respect and esteem—the life of a leading Minister in the House of Commons involved duties so laborious and thankless that no other compensation would induce men to undertake them. The present Ministry had their turn at the wheel during a time in which the ship was not in smooth water, and although political contests might be extremely amusing to lookers-on, he assured them that they were more exciting than was quite pleasant to those who were engaged in them.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON proposed, and the Duke of Richmond responded to the toast of "The maritime and commercial interests of this great empire"; the Prince of Wales acknowledged the toast of "The honorary members"; "British ships and seamen" was proposed by Sir Stafford Northcote, and acknowledged by Sir R. Phillimore; and "The visitors" was briefly responded to by Lord Napier of Magdala.

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.

Thursday was the hottest day experienced in London for many years. The accounts from the country also report an unusually high temperature during the present week. Mr. Lowe, who resides near Nottingham, says that on Wednesday the temperature in the shade reached ninety-three degrees, and in the sun 109. This is higher than in any summer during the last twenty-six years. Many shrubs have died, and some trees are almost leafless. The corn harvest, Mr. Lowe says, is a month earlier than usual.

Mr. Mechi, in a letter to the *Times*, says his anticipations of an abundant wheat crop appear to be fully realised; kernels are large and sheaves heavy.

Within the last few days the wheat crops about Liverpool and in Cheshire are being rapidly gathered in. So far as the wheat is concerned, the yield will be above the average, though there will be a deficiency in the straw, owing to the unprecedented drought.

The *Chelmsford Chronicle* says:—"The harvest has very generally commenced in this neighbourhood. A few pieces of oats were cut last week, and this week the wheat, which has within the last few days assumed its complete harvest hue, has been generally attacked by the scythe and the sickle, the reaping machine not being brought so much into use as we expected to see it. In the adjacent counties of Herts and Suffolk the wheat is being cut, and in the upper part of the latter, bordering on Essex, it is stated the crop is likely to be above an average."

The harvest is in full operation along the lower coast of the Bristol Channel, and will commence in the neighbourhood of Wiveliscombe almost immediately. The wheat is in splendid condition; barley good, oats short in the straw; potatoes selling at 3d. per lb., but of medium size; bread, 7½d. per 4lb. loaf.

The *Leeds Mercury* of yesterday publishes reports collected from its correspondents in various parts, of the condition and prospects of the wheat and other cereal crops, and thus sums up the general result:—"They are, of course, of a somewhat varied character, but on the whole they present, we think, a more encouraging result than a week or fortnight ago could have been predicated. The extraordinary heat which prevailed for several weeks forced the crops, if anything, too rapidly to maturity. Our correspondents anticipate that harvest will in some parts begin next week, and that in the country generally it will come on a month before the usual time. The gentle refreshing rain which fell last week did an immense amount of benefit to the dried and parched ground, and dispersed the gloomy forebodings of a more than ordinarily deficient harvest. Most accounts indicate that the wheat crop will be an average, but oats are not so good. Barley is below an average, though its superior quality is in some measure a compensation for deficient yield. The hay crop has been well won, but is unusually thin."

It is expected that the harvest will be got in throughout France by the end of July, and in the first days of August an accurate estimate of it may be formed. In the meantime, the *Echo Agricole* announces that even now there is no doubt that the yield will be sufficient; that nearly everywhere the wheat is good; and that the present year may be classed among the good ordinary years. The weather continues hot, with occasional showers and thunder of short duration.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, CALEDONIAN-ROAD, N.—Number of patients for the week ending July 18, 1,366, of which 473 were new cases.

MR. MURPHY HELD TO BAIL.—On Friday Mr. Murphy (the anti-Popery lecturer) was charged before the Bolton magistrates with being likely to cause a breach of the peace by his proposed lectures. Application was made that the defendant should be bound over to keep the peace. The magistrates thinking that this would meet the ends of justice, bound him over for twelve months, himself in 500l., and two sureties in 250l. each.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

On Wednesday next her Majesty is expected to leave Osborne in the Royal yacht Victoria and Albert for Cherbourg, and proceed thence by rail for Paris and Lucerne.

On the Queen's return from Switzerland it is understood that the orders for the Victoria and Albert will be to proceed to Havre to receive her Majesty and suite on board for reconveyance across Channel to Osborne. Lord Stanley, as Secretary of State and Foreign Affairs, will accompany her Majesty, who is understood to have taken two villas near Geneva.

The Queen has deputed Prince Arthur to open the New Albert Park at Middlesborough, soon after the 5th August.

The Ministerial whitebait dinner has been fixed for Wednesday (this day).

Cardinal Cullen is reported to be seriously ill, and the prayers of the clergy and religious communities of Dublin have been solicited for his recovery. His Eminence is about sixty-eight years of age.

The *Athenaeum* is informed that the arrangements now in progress with regard to the removal of the Royal Academy to Burlington House are so far complete as to leave no doubt about the holding of the next exhibition in the new premises. The galleries, which are far advanced towards completion, will afford double the space now available for the exhibition of works of art.

Mr. Sleight and Mr. Sargood have been appointed serjeants-at-law.

Mr. Russell Gurney, the Recorder of London, was seized with illness on Sunday. The ordinary sitting of the Lord Mayor's Court was adjourned on Monday in consequence.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, who is suffering from ill-health, has been ordered abroad for relaxation.

Prince Louis of Hesse has been spending two days at Chatham on a visit to his Royal Highness Prince Arthur, and under the guidance of General Simmons, C.B., has inspected the whole engineer establishment, including the schools, fieldworks, pontoon equipments, and the new telegraph apparatus.

It is authoritatively stated on behalf of General Prim that he has for the last seven months permanently resided in London, that he has never stirred from his home here, and that the reports about his being at Vichy, about his letters being intercepted by the French Government, &c., lately circulating in some newspapers, are pure fabrications.

HOME FOR LITTLE BOYS.

While many benevolent societies are providing refuges for destitute children in the densely-populated and neglected districts of London, there is being established amongst the cornfields and hopgroves of Kent a home for the "reception, education, and industrial training" of little boys from all parts of the kingdom. It was founded at Tottenham in 1864, chiefly through the exertions of the late Mr. Hanbury, the memory of those unwearying labours of love this and many kindred institutions will freshen as their yearly festivals come round. The annual *fete* at Horton Kirby was celebrated on Saturday, and the little boys, as usual, lent their homes to a large company of ladies and gentlemen, who arrived by successive trains at Farningham-road. This visit has grown year by year more attractive. The society has become better known since the laying of the foundation stone by the Princess of Wales two years ago, and the death of Mr. Hanbury, not long after, brought its merits before the world. Nor have the charms of the trip itself been without their attractive power. The scorched pastures to be seen on either side of the railway on Saturday week were insufficient to rob the country of adornment, while dark woods, graceful hop-fields, and patches of golden grain alternately passed under the review of the traveller. The home, to be strictly correct, is a series of homes. They are planted here and there upon nineteen acres of table land, looking down upon a wide prospect which grows more and more beautiful as distance absorbs it. The homes are seven at present, but two of them are not yet in full habitable condition. The cottages are pictures of neatness, and the committee have made the comforts of the home complete by providing for each its father and mother. These families of thirty boys were, in all senses but the one in which the term is used, "at home" on Saturday, and held various "small and early" receptions. The healthy young urchins during the morning paraded on the broad gravel thoroughfares that splits the estate into two sections, and after that they dispersed to their daily occupations. We visited their workshops and saw them kneading bread, hoeing hard ground, pasting paper bags, printing labels, making and patching clothes, handling saw and plane, trundling mops, weaving mats, washing pots and pans; and we afterwards heard them, under cross-examination, tell what they knew about Bible events and Bible worthies; give their ideas of earth, air, fire and water during many object lessons; perform upon fife and drum; and disport themselves in the playground, all being done to their own and their visitors' entire satisfaction. The programme of the day included a bazaar, toy shop, flower show, and fancy fair, in aid of an infirmary which it is desirable to establish; a public examination, at which Viscount Enfield, M.P., gave away medals and other prizes to boys about to seek

homes of their own; and "tea and fruit at 5" in the cottages. A visit of this kind could hardly fail to be pleasant to the visitors and profitable to the institution. Nothing is concealed, and everything to be seen puts the stamp of thorough upon the objects and exertions of the promoters. The names of the boys (who must according to regulation be under ten years years of age) are generally withheld in print—always in the published reports—but the list shows that the majority comes from London. They are admitted free by the election of the subscribers, or by payment of five shillings a week, all the inmates receiving alike, board, clothes, education, and industrial occupation, until they are thirteen years old; they have the advantages, also, of homes well regulated in the midst of untainted country life, and of a religious training that is Scriptural, but distinctively not sectarian. When the two new homes referred to are inhabited, the Horton Kirby family will be increased to 210; but there is no reason why, funds permitting, the colony should not much enlarge its limits. Ladies and gentlemen with money to give, or influence to use, have but to know the sterling value of this excellent institution to be relieved from any difficulty they may feel in subscribing to the one or exerting the other. The friends of the institution present on Saturday week included Mr. Sheriff McArthur, Mr. A. O. Charles, the hon. secretary, Mr. W. H. Willans, the treasurer, and several members of the Hanbury family. The bazaar is open to-day, and the ladies in charge of the stalls ready at their receipts of custom. It was intended that Lady Enfield should unveil the Hanbury Memorial Fountain, near the Alexandra House; but the Scotch firm who are working the marble failing in their engagements, the ceremony is postponed. The homes are thus named, "Alexandra House"; "Hanbury House," given by the Hanbury family; "A Quiet Resting Place," given by the congregation of Hare-court Chapel; "the Children's Cottage," raised by subscriptions from the home-blessed children of England; and "Lady Morrison's Home," given by the lady whose name distinguishes it. One of the new homes is named "Kimbroke Lodge," and is given by Miss Peek, Blackheath, and the other "Little Wanderer's Retreat," given by a lady who wishes her name kept secret.

Postscript.

Wednesday, July 22, 1868.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

In the Lords yesterday, an attempt was made by Lord REDESDALE to obtain the rejection of the Commons' amendments to the South Eastern and the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railways Bill. The Commons had reinserted the clause struck out by the Lords. Both the Duke of RICHMOND and Lord SALISBURY demurred to Lord Redesdale's motion, which on being pressed to a division, was defeated by a large majority.

ARTISANS AND LABOURERS' DWELLINGS BILL.

On the order for the consideration of the Commons, amendments to the Lords' amendments on the Artisans' and Labourers' Dwellings Bill, Lord WESTBURY said he was glad to say that the Commons had accepted all the amendments introduced by their lordships, with two trifling exceptions. Some amendments had been inserted in the House of Commons, and he now begged leave to move that their lordships do agree with them. The amendments were then agreed to.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHIC BILL.

In the Commons the principal business had reference to the Electric Telegraphs Bill. On going into committee the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER briefly gave the history of the negotiations which had taken place, and defended the action of the Government. He quoted figures to show that while the total charge would not amount to more than six millions, the capitalised value of the telegraphs might fairly be represented by a sum of eight millions. It was not proposed that the Post Office should enjoy a legal monopoly; therefore its possessing a practical monopoly would depend upon the manner in which it conducted the business. He laid emphasis upon the approval which the witnesses examined on behalf of the newspapers had given to the scheme, and assured the House that ample precautions had been taken to ensure that on the transmission of messages there should be no violation of secrecy. In the interesting and somewhat lengthy debate which ensued, considerable difference of opinion was expressed. Mr. GOSCHEN and Mr. GLADSTONE both approved of the principle of the bill while warmly criticising its details, especially in respect to the financial arrangements. On the other hand, the bill was energetically opposed by Mr. LEEMAN and Mr. LEVESON GOWER. Apart from the doubts expressed upon the soundness of the estimates, little or no hostility was manifested to the bill; and Mr. Goschen expressly stated that many objections which were originally entertained to the measure had been either greatly modified, or entirely removed by the evidence which had been given before the select committee. Some doubts were, however, expressed by Mr. Alderman LUSK whether the Government could profitably carry on the business of telegraphing without they had a legal monopoly; and Mr. R. N. PHILIPS warned them against unduly reducing rates for the benefit of "merchants, lawyers, and betting men" at the expense of the general body of the taxpayers of the country.

After the bill got into committee, Mr. CHILDERS proposed so to amend the fourth clause as to provide that the price to be paid to the telegraph companies, instead of being in any way settled by this measure, should be left to be fixed by arbitration. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER opposed the amendment, and it was not persevered with. There was some discussion upon one or two other amendments providing for a reduction of the charge for telegrams in the metropolis and other large towns; but all these proposals were unsuccessful, and eventually the bill passed through committee.

POOR RELIEF BILL.

Before any progress was made with the Poor Relief Bill (in committee) there was a preliminary struggle as to whether or not the measure should be allowed to go on. A strong objection appeared to be entertained by some of the metropolitan and at least one Scotch member, aided by Mr. NEWDEGATE, to the clauses of the bill which referred to the religious instruction of paupers; and, in order to get rid of them, Mr. H. LEWIS moved to report progress. Mr. VILLIERS warmly supported the bill, and the motion for reporting progress was eventually withdrawn. The conflict was renewed upon the sixth clause of the bill, which involved the question of the establishment of a "creed register," and a good many speeches were made upon each side of the question. Mr. T. CHAMBERS and Mr. NEWDEGATE led the "Protestant" opposition, which was entirely disavowed by Mr. E. BAINES, who asserted that he was as good a Protestant as either of them. Lord E. HOWARD pleaded as earnestly and effectively, as usual, the cause of the Roman Catholics; and Mr. VILLIERS adduced cogent arguments to prove that this, and other clauses depending upon it, were necessary to carry out the already expressed intentions of the legislature—that the inmates of workhouses, like other subjects of the Queen, should enjoy perfect religious liberty. Upon a division the clause was carried by a majority of 31—58 to 27. After an ineffectual attempt on the part of Mr. NEWDEGATE to induce the committee to report progress, another clause or two relating to the same subject were agreed to, and the House resumed. The remaining orders were disposed of without much discussion, and the House adjourned at a quarter to two o'clock.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—The great event of yesterday at Wimbledon was the close of the competition for the Queen's Prize. The winner is a gentleman named Peek, of Manchester, and, notwithstanding the fierce heat, he was carried in triumph round the camp by the more enthusiastic members of his corps. At noon the thermometer marked 93 degrees in the shade.

THE PALMERSTON MEMORIAL.—Two memorials to Lord Palmerston were inaugurated at Romsey yesterday. One is a window in the Abbey Church, consisting of a triplet of lancets at the west end of the nave. The centre light is 39 ft. by 5 ft. 7 in., and the two side lights are 36 ft. 6 in. by 4 ft. 2 in. each. The design of this window, which is from the works of Clayton and Bell, and will cost 1,000 guineas, is to exemplify the idea of government descending from heaven to earth. At the bottom of the window are the heraldic bearings of Lord Palmerston, and the inscription, "In memory of Viscount Palmerston, ob. 1865." Service in the church having been concluded, Mr. Noble's statue of his lordship in the market-place was unveiled. The total cost of the two memorials was nearly 2,000l. The Right Hon. W. F. Cowper, M.P., entertained a select party at dinner, at Broadlands, in the evening.

SIR ROBERT NAPIER IN THE CITY.—At Guildhall, yesterday, the freedom of the City, with the appropriate accompaniment of a valuable sword, was conferred upon Lord Napier of Magdala. The Chamberlain read an elaborate address, which congratulated the general on his well-earned honours, and praised the method, order, and foresight displayed in the organisation of the expedition, the almost mathematical precision and certainty of every step taken, the conciliatory treatment of the natives, the absence of either undue delay or of excessive haste, the undeviating and unfaltering pursuit of the plan laid down, until the great object of the war was obtained. His lordship, in briefly replying, testified to the services of the brave force which he had the honour to command, every man of whom seconded his desires to the best of his power. One feeling prevailed throughout the whole Abyssinian army—a desire, first, to maintain the honour of England by vindicating it from the outrage which had been committed against it, and, secondly, to maintain it by showing that England is as merciful and considerate as she is powerful. Lord Napier also spoke highly of the manner in which his officers had acted throughout the campaign.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

Harvest operations are now being rapidly proceeded with, and so far the out turn of the crop has justified the anticipations formed of it, being decidedly above the average both as to quantity and quality. The few new samples of English wheat on sale here to-day changed hands at very full prices; otherwise, the trade ruled extremely dull, at barely the late reduction. In foreign wheat a few retail transactions took place, at nominally Monday's currencies. Barley showed more firmness for grinding qualities; but in other sorts there was nothing doing.

ARRIVALS THIS WEEK.				
Wheat.	Barley.	Malt.	Oats.	Flour.
English & Scotch	150	—	1,100	710
Irish	—	—	—	—
Foreign	4,930	4,590	—	22,610 2,070 sks.
				2,010 bls.
				Malzo, 1,970 qrs.

TO the FREEHOLDERS and INDEPENDENT ELECTORS of the EAST RIDING of YORKSHIRE.

GENTLEMEN.—Having received so many promises of support in the event of a contest for the East Riding, I venture most respectfully to offer myself as a Candidate for the honour of representing you in Parliament—I beg, in common with the great majority of my brother electors, to express sincere regret that Lord Hotham, in consequence of advancing years and a long life spent in the service of his country, has announced his intention of retiring from the House of Commons at the end of the Session.

In soliciting your votes I beg to say I have always been a consistent supporter of Liberal measures, and though no contest has taken place for a generation in our division of the county, I am sure that my political opinions are well known to most of you.

I deplore as a national calamity the temporary exclusion from office of that great statesman, Mr. Gladstone, and I look with alarm at the growing expenditure in respect to the army and navy, and the consequent increase in taxation.

I am in favour of the immediate reform of the Irish Church as proposed by the Whig leaders of both Houses of Parliament, believing that such a measure will prove to be the best measure for Ireland, and the most certain means of giving contentment to that disaffected and unhappy portion of the empire, without being injurious to the true interest and permanent well-being of the Church of England.

I am by birth, by education, and by conviction, a staunch supporter of the Church of England, though I have always opposed the compulsory payment of Church-rates.

I have for many years been an active magistrate, and zealous commander of volunteers, and I trust that I have, both in sessions and on parade, done my duty.

I have always taken the greatest interest on behalf of the farmers and ratepayers, and I remind you that I helped at quarter sessions successfully to reject the proposed adoption of the Highway Act.

I had also, during the hard times caused by the cattle plague, the satisfaction of assisting in the formation of Cattle Plague Insurance Associations, both at Malton and in North Holderness, where I spared neither time nor expense in rendering them useful and guaranteeing their security.

I am in favour of an increased grant for educational purposes, so that the children of the poorer classes, especially in the rural districts, may, in these days of improved husbandry, be enabled to work their way in the world, and fit themselves for the exercise of the franchise in future years.

I have now clearly stated my sentiments, which I hope, in due time, more fully to explain. I come forward as the Independent Liberal candidate, and though the election cannot take place before November, I ask you now to promise me your votes and support, and in the meantime I earnestly trust that, by the blessing of Providence, we may have an early and abundant harvest.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

B. B. HAWORTH.

Hull Bank House, 14th July, 1868.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1868.

SUMMARY.

THE country party is for the moment in power. The squires are up in arms. Against the Opposition, or such members of it as remain at Westminster, with only a lukewarm support from the Government, spite of the tropical heat, and despite the general desire for a speedy wind-up of the Session, Mr. Disraeli's country supporters urge on the Foreign Cattle Market Bill. Time is not on their side, so with martyr-like steadfastness they resist what Lord Robert Montagu speaks of as an organised system of "dodges and delays," by which the Liberals, shorn in numbers, are endeavouring to thwart that compact majority. Twice in the last week repeated motions for adjournment have kept the House sitting till three o'clock a.m.; but nothing daunted, the squires press on. They gain ground by inches—the Bill moves, though but at snail's pace, through committee. Whether it will ever emerge from that condition, who can say? Sir R. Knightley declares that if the Government were as anxious to pass the Bill as those who sit behind them, it would

have passed long ago; but Mr. Disraeli is said to have received a "round robin" from his top-booted followers, which he grumbles at, but durst not disregard. The Bill is down again for to-morrow, but comes after the Church-rate question and the Corrupt Practices Bill, and can have no chance in a sitting which rigorously closes at six o'clock. Three only out of twenty-five clauses are safe. Still, it would be rash to say that the agricultural members, who once carried a Poaching Bill against the Government, and beat Lord Palmerston and Mr. Gladstone combined on the question of cattle compensation, are destined in this instance to be foiled.

The Bill around which this hot conflict rages proposes to establish at Dagenham, far down the Thames, a metropolitan market for the slaughter of foreign cattle imported into this country. Its promoters contend that the sole object of the measure is to keep out the Rinderpest, which undoubtedly came from abroad. Its opponents allege that by this measure the foreign cattle trade will be destroyed—as indeed has been the case at Hull—that it will permanently raise the piece of meat to the consumer, and they ask whence is to come the half a million of money required to establish the market. Butchers' bills are beginning to go up again, partly because the fattening of foreign beasts for our markets has been put a stop to, and we shall all soon be at the mercy of the graziers who cannot grow enough meat for the consumption of the population. If these pleas are not perfectly unanswerable, the pertinacity with which this Bill is being pressed has a suspicious look. Is there such imminent danger that the pest will come in before February next, when the new Parliament will meet? France keeps out the plague without destroying the foreign cattle trade, and cannot we do the same? Are there not still rigorous, not to say vexatious, Privy Council regulations still in force? If this be not a protection Bill for our grazing interest, why this preternatural effort to push it through this session?

The Prime Minister's bill for dealing with electoral corruption, and creating a new machinery for the trial of election petitions, has made slow but satisfactory progress in the Commons, and Mr. Disraeli has announced that he will not recommend her Majesty to prorogue Parliament till this much-needed measure is safe. At a special sitting on Saturday Sir F. Goldsmid's excellent clause, proposing that all the votes given for a candidate who is reported to be guilty of bribery shall be deemed to have been thrown away, in the same manner as if he had been incapable of election, but with the proviso that no other candidate at the same election shall be declared duly elected unless he has polled one-third of the registered electors, was rejected by a considerable majority. On the other hand, Mr. Fawcett's clause, providing that the expenses of elections shall be defrayed out of the borough or county rate, was supported by the Liberal leaders, and carried against the Government by a majority of eight. We regret to find that Mr. Disraeli is not disposed to acquiesce in this salutary decision. At to-day's sitting of the House the Solicitor-General will move that the vote of Saturday be rescinded—a proceeding all the more surprising as some such provision was contained in the original draft of the Government Bill. Should there be a sufficient number of Liberals in town, Mr. Fawcett's clause will no doubt be sustained, and the danger of drifting into a "plutocracy," which Mr. Mill justly fears, be averted. These protracted discussions have indefinitely delayed the prorogation, for which no certain date can now be fixed.

Last night the Government Bill for purchasing the electric telegraphs of the United Kingdom, which has been considerably modified to meet objection, passed through committee after a long and searching discussion. The opposition of the companies has been withdrawn, on the agreement that they are to receive twenty years purchase, calculated on the present year's profits. A similar arrangement has been made with the railway companies, who are to be compensated for their reversionary interests at the same rate, and for the cession of permanent way-leaves over their lines. These arrangements are to be effected at a cost of six millions sterling, and it is expected that the Government will be able to draw from the telegraphs a net revenue of 358,000*l.*, which Mr. Goschen regards as an over-estimate to the extent of about 100,000*l.* But neither Mr. Goschen nor any other critic of the Government measure denies that the arrangement can be made to pay. There seems to be no doubt that the Bill will be passed this session.

The failure of the so-called Hyde Park demonstration on Sunday afternoon, in favour of Mr. Gladstone's Irish Church policy, is not a

matter for regret. It was an attempt on the part of a few notorious individuals, whose alliance is no credit to any party, to make capital out of the question against the advice of those who are best entitled to be regarded as the working men's leaders in London. The event has, however, been the means of drawing from Mr. Gladstone a statement that he has not the slightest intention of flinching from the task he has undertaken, and which he is prepared to carry through to a triumphant issue. It will be a tough job, says the right hon. gentleman, but he is confident of success, and he expresses his conviction that the disestablishment of the Irish Church, accompanied by an improved land tenure, will bring about a better state of things in Ireland.

The foreign news of the week is remarkably meagre. The recent arbitrary acts of the Spanish Government have not as yet led to any outbreak in the Peninsula, but General Prim, who has been quietly living in London for many months past, has suddenly disappeared, and the Queen's Ministers are so greatly in fear of an insurrection, directed from Portugal, being organised, that they have demanded the removal of the Duke and Duchess of Montpensier from that country. The royal exiles will now remove to England, but their unjustifiable treatment by the Spanish Government will tend to increase their popularity among the discontented subjects of Queen Isabella.—The details which have come to hand relative to the nomination of a Democratic candidate for the Presidency indicate that Mr. Johnson obtained many votes, though Mr. Pendleton was the favourite. That gentleman failing to secure the required majority, Mr. Seymour was finally accepted by a unanimous vote, at the suggestion of the Ohio delegates. The tone of opinion throughout the States is not favourable to the Democratic candidate, still less to the "platform" of principles adopted by the Convention.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION OF 1867-8.

THE Session just on the eve of expiring will be as memorable in the annals of the United Kingdom as its immediate predecessor. Its course has been remarkable almost beyond precedent. It has been full of surprises. Its party struggles have been frequent and unusually passionate. The legislation it has accomplished and the legislation it has initiated has been of the gravest and most important character, and yet, with here and there an exception, neither can be held to represent the matured convictions of either House of Parliament. Its opening scenes were marked by a staid and decorous demeanour. The short Session in November seemed to have dulled the mettle of ambitious spirits, and as Parliament met in February pursuant to adjournment, it was not enlivened by a Royal Speech. Underneath that early aspect of calm, however, there lay hidden the germs of a mighty contention. The dull grey sky soon assumed a portentous appearance, and from early March till late in June there was a succession of boisterous political weather. Lord Derby's resignation of the Premiership, and Mr. Disraeli's elevation to the vacated post of supremacy, though not the cause, supplied the occasion, of this protracted spell of unrest.

The course of the Session can only be explained by a reference to the various influences which contributed to shape it. Not only was the present House of Commons under sentence of dissolution when it met at the beginning of the year, but it was known that the next appeal would be made to new and enlarged constituencies. Mr. Disraeli professed to take the lead of the largest coherent party in the Legislature. As against the united sections of the Liberals he was in a minority—but he had a plausible pretext, even when defeated, for not resigning, and, except on one question, he had not the sanction of the Crown to dissolve until the work of Reform was complete. All the ordinary conditions, therefore, under which public questions were wont to be brought forward, discussed, and disposed of, were absent during the greater part of the Session. The Government was not wholly responsible to the House, and members were more intent on complying with the supposed wishes of their expectant, than of their actual, constituents. Last Session they had been precipitated by a series of cross manœuvres into organic changes more democratic than either of the traditional parties, on a quiet review of them, could heartily approve. This Session they had to anticipate the probable consequences of that mishap. The Irish question furnished an available opportunity. The deplorable atrocities which roused the somewhat lethargic consciences of the Eng-

lish people in the preceding autumn had given urgency to it. Tories and Whigs were equally intent with Radicals upon doing something to conciliate Ireland. The intentions of the Disraeli administration were soon tested by Mr. Maguire's motion. They were found to amount to nothing beyond a shadowy design of chartering and endowing an exclusive Roman Catholic University, and an evasion of the questions affecting the ascendancy of the Protestant Church, and the relations of landlord and tenant. The scheme, if scheme it could be called, gave satisfaction to none, for it seemed evidently sketched with the simple object of enabling Mr. Disraeli to hold on until the return of the Reformed Parliament, and, meanwhile, keep his policy in abeyance. It was a repetition of the shifts of last year. It could not be tolerated.

Mr. Gladstone, who, it may be presumed, had finally made up his mind as to the line he would take for the pacification of Ireland, but not as to the precise time and manner of entering upon it, saw at a glance that his hour was come. With firm but cautious hand he sketched an outline of his policy, and followed up his first tentative step by laying on the table of the House his three famous resolutions. The effect was magical. There ran through the ranks of what Mr. Bouverie, with too much truth, had described as "an undisciplined rabble," an electric current which instantly transformed it into an organised unity. The Liberal party was surprised into a recognition of the fact that it had at last a leader and a policy worthy of its homage and devotion. If any of the professed members of it wavered for an instant in this opinion, the echoes of applause that resounded through the country speedily convinced them that Mr. Gladstone had skilfully and truly interpreted the will of the people. We need not recapitulate the incidents of the severe and often renewed conflict which followed. They are fresh in everybody's memory. Victory after victory attested the wisdom of the stroke of statesmanship to which the Liberal leader had committed himself, and, to the last the House of Commons adhered unfalteringly to its first decision. Mr. Disraeli lost his discretion when he lost his prospect of retaining official supremacy. He doubled upon his opponents at every turn, but could not escape them. He resorted unblushingly to the most transparent devices. He appealed to the narrowest and most hateful prejudices. He framed evasive resolutions. He spoke preposterous speeches. He attempted to make an unconstitutional use of the Queen's name and influence. He wrote absurd letters. He addressed "Constitutionalist" deputations. He talked of "awful dispensations of Providence." He tried everything which unscrupulous ingenuity could invent to change the grandly simple issue which his antagonist had raised. He contrived by such means to keep his place for the present. But there is one result of Mr. Gladstone's plan of campaign which he would fain have averted but was wholly unable. He could not prevent a clear line of demarcation being drawn between his own supporters and those of the right hon. member for South Lancashire, nor could he prevent the first general election under his own Reform Acts from turning upon an intelligible question upon which the mind of the country and the mind of his party are plainly at variance. Let no one say that Mr. Gladstone has taken nothing by his resolutions, or that by his introduction of them this Session he has wasted the time of Parliament. The Lords, it is true, put their veto upon his preliminary and preparatory measure; but the Liberals have none the less been reanimated by a spirit of unity, and the constituencies will record their suffrages—"aye" or "no"—upon a clear, broad, unmistakable issue.

For the rest, the moribund House has to some considerable extent redeemed the credit which it lost in its first Session. It has completed the complementary measures for the better representation of the people. It has abolished compulsory Church-rates. It has put an end to flogging in the army. It has passed a stringent Bill for the future trial of converted elections, and for the discouragement of corrupt practices at elections. Its industry has been quite exemplary, and, on the whole, the last acts of its life have greatly raised its reputation for legislative ability and earnestness. To crown all, it has bequeathed to its successor a policy which it will be the glory of any Parliament to carry to completion. Its chief virtues, however, it must be owned, are death-bed virtues, and the regret which may be felt for its premature decease will be lessened by the remembrance of the tenour of its life. We bid adieu to it with some emotion, praying in the common phraseology of domestic life "that the son may grow up to be better than his father."

THE TROPICAL HEAT.

SUMMER came in with the month of May, or sooner, and has, so to speak, raged with augmented heat ever since, to the complete discomfiture of weather-prophets and the bewilderment of scientific meteorologists. What may be the precise atmospheric conditions which have produced this long period of hot weather and drought in Europe, while clouds and rain have been the normal characteristics of the American summer, no one has, as yet, attempted to explain. The mail steamer emerges from the dripping atmosphere of the Atlantic to find an Italian sky and sunshine at Liverpool. Ireland has ceased for this year to be the Emerald Isle; England to be the garden of Europe. Verdure is dried up; our green fields are a dusky brown; our streams have shrunk down to half their ordinary dimensions. The barometer seems nailed to set fair; umbrellas are used as a shield from the sun, not as a protection from the rain; and if perchance any Italians have come to our little Isle to be invigorated by the northern breeze, they will have found a landscape as arid as their own in summer, and a heat quite as scorching. Farmers driven to their wit's end how to water their cattle, reservoirs hopelessly emptying themselves, deaths by sunstroke, fires caused by the fierce heat, the advent of mosquitoes, conflagrations in the peat morasses and on the mountain sides—such are some of the novel characteristics of our tropical summer. Business has become languid in the sultry atmosphere, the volunteer riflemen shirk their practice, and none seem able to bear up against the close weather save the squire who is pushing through Parliament a Cattle Market Bill to keep up the price of stock, and the candidate bent on making secure his seat in the new House of Commons.

It is said that seasoned Indians inured to the scorching climate of Calcutta are ill able to endure the heat of the present English summer. In Hindostan the houses, the habits, and the dress of the population, whether native or European, are adapted to the exigencies of the climate. Here we are totally unprepared for the unexpected phenomenon. Broadcloth cannot be in a moment dropped for loose cotton garments; custom will not allow us to discard the chimney pot which constitutes our head gear, and keeps the brain at fever heat, save at the seaside; and with the thermometer at 80 deg. to 90 deg. in the shade, our houses are conservatories, which no contrivance can keep cool. Straw hats would tend to cool perspiring brows, but who is bold enough to defy Mrs. Grundy by donning the novelty? How many dare even now dress in light summer costume, and thus metamorphosed appear on 'Change or at the counting house, or perchance in his own domestic circle? It is, indeed, getting hotter as the summer advances, but who can say that a few weeks hence the British citizen may not be shivering in the familiar humid atmosphere, or wrapping tightly around him his overcoat amid the descending rain?

If we are unable to adapt our costume to an exceptional temperature, it is neither difficult nor untimely to adopt the most rigid sanitary precautions during this Indian summer. The seeds of disease are not in the sunshine, but every putrescent mass becomes dangerous in proportion to the intensity of the heat, and the absence of purifying showers to remove impurity and flush our sewers. Happily few of our large towns, even in this time of drought, lack an abundant water supply, and past experience has shown the value of disinfectants. The recent Registrar's weekly return, while testifying to the improved sanitary condition of the metropolis, sound a note of warning. We are told that, "under the influence of the present sultry heat and drought, the annual rate of mortality in the fourteen large towns of the United Kingdom has, week by week, steadily increased from 22 per 1,000 in the beginning of June to 28 last week. The increase has been greatest in London, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, and Sheffield, and has been almost entirely due to the fatal prevalence of summer diarrhoea, principally infantile." Though the deaths in the metropolis during the past week exceeded by 184 the estimated average, London is in a healthier condition than the large continental cities. But an increase of mortality to the extent of 139 deaths in the last week, owing entirely to the prevalence of diarrhoea, is a fact that calls for augmented vigilance and the prompt adoption of precautionary measures. All the conditions of this exceptional season are only too favourable to the spread of infectious diseases and fever, and "now," as the *Morning Star* says, "seems to be the time for trying to counteract the bad effects of the long drought by flushing of sewers, the

use of disinfectants, liberal lime-washing and cleansing; in short, taking every precaution, and keeping our sanitary powder dry."

If we have had a superabundance of sunshine this summer, and a lack of necessary showers to refresh the thirsty soil, our food prospects are not on the whole discouraging. It is no slight advantage that, with short supplies of home-grown wheat in consequence of the deficient crops of last year, the harvest should be at least a month earlier than usual. The crops are now being gathered in under the most favourable conditions, and though authentic information on the subject is scanty, the long drought has apparently been less injurious than was expected. "From all quarters," says a south of England paper, "the reports as to the wheat crop are most satisfactory, both as regards quality and quantity, and up to the present moment there is every prospect that it will be secured in first-rate condition. The reports as to barley and oats are less satisfactory, although in many cases these crops have stood the drought better than could have been expected. The root crops and turnips have profited by the recent rains, but are nevertheless suffering much from want of moisture." "Most accounts," says the *Leeds Mercury*, in summing up a number of reports from all parts of Yorkshire, "indicate that the wheat crop will be an average, but oats are not so good. Barley is below an average, though its superior quality is in some measure a compensation for deficient yield. The hay crop has been well won, but is unusually thin." These descriptions will probably apply, with little variation, to the whole country. A full average wheat crop gives the promise of moderate prices for the coming year, especially as the harvest reports from all parts of Europe area great contrast to those of last year. Abundance in Europe means a range of low prices in England.

ELECTION NOTES.

APART from the general result of the appeal to the country next November, which is already discounted by those who are best able to form an accurate conclusion on the subject, the forthcoming elections are likely to solve many a political problem of great interest to the community, and to furnish many valuable data which will indicate the probable current of national opinion.

Whatever may be the number of Mr. Gladstone's supporters in the new Parliament, it is clear that the Liberal party will henceforth become more compact, and be composed of better materials. It is already being moulded afresh in the electoral crucible, not by those who are in the habit of manipulating elections, but by the people themselves. Confidence in Mr. Gladstone is the conspicuous feature in the election addresses and speeches of Liberal candidates, and the test of their good faith. Those who have heretofore been accounted moderate Whigs, equally with those who are known as staunch Radicals, are compelled to follow the new fashion. Time was when the name of Lord Palmerston was the symbol of party sentiment, and it produced a conglomerate Parliament, as uncertain and unsatisfactory as the opinions of its leader. Mr. Gladstone, on the other hand, is the representative of a definite policy. Though in all respects he stands before the country as the highest type of earnest statesmanship, and the tried champion of progression, his name is specially identified with the disestablishment of the Irish Church; and, so accurately has he gauged the national feeling on the subject, that none who range themselves under the Liberal standard call in question his position. *Not a single candidate on the Liberal side*, so far as we are aware, ventures to contest the principle he has laid down for dealing with the Irish ecclesiastical problem. The compromise suggested by the *Edinburgh Review*, with the view of saving the principle of establishments in the settlement of the Irish difficulty, finds no apparent echo in the electoral field. So cautious a Whig as Sir George Grey, in his address to his constituents, indicates that the time for compromise is passed. The *Edinburgh*, which once led the Liberal party, is now faraway in the rear. Its article is an anachronism and a blunder—emanating either from a fossil Whig, or some one whose pet theories may have been smashed to atoms by a practical statesman; its arguments have no relevancy to the present situation. A policy which, however strongly advocated by an anonymous writer, is so opposed to public feeling, that no man standing before a Liberal constituency dares to support it, is already dead.

In the Reform discussions of the last two years much stress has been laid upon the importance of securing *bonâ fide* representatives of working men in the Parliament of the future.

However it may be hereafter, there is no present prospect of the return of a single working man to the House of Commons which will be elected next November. The practical difficulties in the way of such a result are found to be insuperable. After many months' consultation, the artisans of Birmingham confess that the obstacles to the return of one of their own order, even in that three-cornered and Radical constituency, are not to be overcome, and they have abandoned the attempt. In Manchester, Leeds, and Glasgow, the operatives have indeed selected their own candidate, but he is not one of themselves. Mr. Ernest Jones, Mr. Carter, and Mr. Anderson may each faithfully and efficiently reflect the views of their principal supporters, but they are not working men. Household suffrage, though it will probably give a great impetus to democratic changes, does not seem likely to encourage class representation. It promises to weld together rather than to separate classes, and to make the Legislature more national in its aims instead of being the reflection of diverse sectional interests. This prospect may at least quiet the fears of alarmists. It might be an advantage for the great mass of new electors to be represented by a few men of their own class. Such, however, is not likely to be the case, and just legislation by future Parliaments will check rather than encourage the desire. Our social tendencies and habits cannot be subverted by political changes, and honest Conservatism may take comfort in the fact.

Though in many cases the regular election managers on the Liberal side have wisely recognised the altered state of things inaugurated by the Reform Act by allowing the new electors a voice in the choice of candidates, there are exceptions to this rule. In Norwich, for instance, the Whig leaders will surrender nothing save under coercion. The Radical section of the constituency having set on foot a powerful organisation comprising some three thousand voters, claimed to put forward a man of their own choice, and unanimously fixed upon Mr. Tillett, the popular leader of the working classes of that city. This reasonable demand has been most violently resisted by the Whig coterie which has hitherto had the representation of Norwich in its hands, and which insisted on the re-election of Mr. Warner and Sir William Russell. The advanced Liberals were quite ready to accept one of these gentlemen, provided the moderates would support their own candidate. But the Whigs insisted upon having both the present members, who were brought down, and needlessly exposed to the popular odium which their friends had raised in the city by their gross intolerance. Finding that public feeling was too strong for their dictation, they have provoked a fresh outburst of bitterness by admitting the right of the most numerous section of the Liberal electors, but insisting that they shall have a veto on the Radical candidate selected—their manifest aim being to exclude, at all events, Mr. Tillett. Of course this unfairness has only had the effect of rousing to the highest pitch the enthusiasm of the Norwich operatives in favour of their chosen candidate. They naturally imagine that they are capable of deciding who is best able to serve them in Parliament without calling in the aid of a Whig chique, and are indignant that the same liberty of choice which they accord to their allies should be refused to themselves. It is not denied that Mr. Tillett is eminently capable of serving the Liberal cause in Parliament. But his very excellencies, his political efficiency, his services to the Liberal party, his faithful adherence to popular rights, are, in truth, the very things for which he is to be ostracised. Private animosity is to rule the representation of Norwich, and the Whig election managers have brought themselves into this predicament—they must either accept Mr. Tillett with Mr. Warner, or allow the return of two Tories.

There are, we fear, unreasonable Liberals elsewhere as well as at Norwich, who seem disposed to sacrifice their principles for the sake of sectional objects, and who are in reality more effectually thwarting Mr. Gladstone's policy than its Tory opponents. The borough of King's Lynn is represented by Lord Stanley and Sir Fowell Buxton. The Liberals, not being strong enough to carry both seats, are content again to divide the representation. His lordship and the hon. baronet would probably be re-elected without a contest, but for the action of some of the teetotal electors, who are resolved to oppose Sir Fowell because he is a member of a celebrated brewing firm. Possibly by their action two Tories may be returned for that borough instead of one, a vote be lost in favour of justice to Ireland, a member returned who is as hostile to the Permissive Bill as Sir Fowell himself, and a devoted philanthropist who emulates the example of his illustrious

father, be excluded from the House of Commons. Can absurdity further go? It only needs a few such cases of blind and stupid bigotry to bring about a reaction against liquor legislation—aye, and the temperance cause itself—which will throw back the entire question for many a year.

What the Liberals of Wales may intend to do at the coming election we shall ere long learn. Should they send up to Parliament a dozen new supporters of Mr. Gladstone, they will have earned the thanks of all Reformers. It is not to be denied that there are peculiar difficulties to be overcome in Wales, owing partly to the tyranny exercised by the great landowners, and partly to the want of organisation among the Nonconformist electors. We hope other districts will follow the example of the Liberals of Newport, which is one of the contributories of the Monmouthshire boroughs, who have met as a united body in public meeting, and definitely agreed on the principles which will enable them to support any candidate who may seek their suffrages, or be invited to present himself. This is the right sort of preparation. The Newport Liberals do not ask a candidate what he will concede, but manfully tell him what they want in a representative. We watch with deep interest the result of the step which has been taken by the Nonconformist electors of Merthyr, who form an overwhelming majority of that constituency, and who, in the most emphatic and enthusiastic manner, invited Mr. Henry Richard last autumn to become their candidate. That gentleman, it will be seen, has now formally come forward in obedience to their wishes. There is no doubt whatever that if the actual promises made last autumn are redeemed, Mr. Richard will be triumphantly elected. We do not doubt the issue. Great as may be the influence of the ironmasters in this district, we cannot imagine that it would suffice to coerce, even if the attempt were made, the thousands of voters who have pledged themselves to Mr. Richard, unless they are devoid of all patriotism. The Nonconformists of Merthyr and Aberdare have taken a very grave step, because they well know that their candidate would, if elected, be the representative not merely of their opinions, but of the whole body of Welsh Dissenters. They have taken up a glorious position, and if, as we expect, they maintain it unflinchingly to the end they will rejoice the hearts of their Liberal fellow-countrymen, and remove from Wales the charge of political apathy and a lack of independence, which has so often, not undeservedly, been cast against them.

TAUNTON INDEPENDENT COLLEGE.

The half-yearly meeting for the distribution of prizes, &c., was held on Wednesday evening, the 17th June, on which occasion the large schoolroom was filled with the parents and friends of the pupils.

The CHAIRMAN (the Rev. W. Young, pastor of Paul's Meeting), before presenting the prizes, requested the attention of the audience to some recitations and musical pieces which had been prepared by the pupils. After commending the performance, he said, with regard to what might be called more important studies, he was very gratified to read the report of the Rev. U. R. Thomas, of Bristol, who examined the pupils the previous week. It ran as follows:—

I have much pleasure in certifying the sincere satisfaction I have felt in my visit to the school to-day. The general appearance, order, and attention of the boys, as well as the result of a necessarily rapid but testing examination on the subjects of their study during the past year, would have greatly gratified all interested in the institution. The subjects in which they were examined were—Scripture history, where a very clear outline of Old and New Testament histories was manifested; mathematics (including of course Euclid and mental arithmetic), the history of England, Rome, and Europe generally, and chemistry, on each of which earnest and intelligent care has evidently been bestowed by tutors and the taught. The translation and parsing from the French of Corneille's Cinna, from the Latin of the Odes of Horace, Virgil and Æneid, and from the Greek of Xenophon's Anabasis and of a Delectus, showed considerable proficiency in the science and the art of the languages.

The Chairman then distributed the prizes and certificates, according to the subjoined list, with a few words of praise and encouragement to the different pupils, who were also loudly cheered as they retired, some with quite a small library of handsomely-bound standard works.

G. Rossiter, Wills' prize; Moyse, Spencer prize; H. Gunn, 2nd ditto; Parker, Scripture prize.

1st CLASS.—G. Rossiter, prize, classics; certificate golden optimi, certificate of honour, mathematics, natural philosophy and chemistry, and Greek. Moyse, prize, Greek; cert. natural philosophy, gold opt. H. Gunn, prize, writing; cert. Latin, golden opt. Parker, prize, history and geography; cert. drawing, golden opt. Thomas, prize, mathematics; cert. history and geography, bookkeeping, golden opt. Trenchard, prize, French. F. Harris, prize, drawing; cert. German, chemistry. Symons, prize, Latin; golden opt. Sully, prize, Greek; golden opt. Philp, prize, German; cert. French. Scott, cert. mapping, mental arithmetic,

writing. Booth, cert. Latin, 2nd division geography and history, 2nd class gold opt. Hawkins, cert. Greek, gold opt. Erlebach, cert. of honour.

2ND CLASS.—A. Erlebach, prize, Greek; cert. Latin. W. J. Gibson, prize, arithmetic and algebra; cert. Euclid, golden opt., honour on leaving. Johnstone, prize, English, golden opt. G. Miller, prize, French. Capern, prize, writing. B. Kidner, prize, Euclid, cert. arithmetic and algebra, golden opt. Franklin, prize, Latin. Renfree, prize, mapping; cert. Greek. Graham, prize, drawing; cert. mapping. W. Odgers, cert. English. Evershed, cert. French. Hunt, cert. writing; drawing, cert. of honour. G. Kidner, cert. mensuration, golden opt.

3RD CLASS.—Munro, prize, English; cert. Latin, arithmetic, French, golden opt. Case, prize, French; cert. writing, golden opt. J. Odgers, prize, Latin. Dowden, prize, arithmetic. Pugh, prize, writing; cert. English. Young, golden opt.

4TH CLASS.—Walters, prize, French; cert. arithmetic, writing, golden opt. Coles, prize, Latin; cert. arithmetic (5th class), golden opt. Selway, prize, arithmetic; cert. French, English, golden opt. E. Culverwell, prize, writing, golden opt. H. Crick, prize, English. Mannington, golden opt. Tovey, golden opt. Mardon, cert. Latin.

5TH CLASS.—Rowe, prize, English; cert. French, writing. F. Burrington, prize, writing; cert. French. Skinner, prize, arithmetic. Couch, prize, French; gold opt. G. Trenchard, cert. English.

6TH CLASS.—W. Gibson, prize, arithmetic. Howe, prize, French; golden opt. P. Griffith, cert. arithmetic.

Amongst those lads honoured with special cheers was the chairman's own son. When the contents of the large tray of prizes was exhausted, the Rev. W. H. GRIFFITH moved the best thanks of the meeting to the chairman for presiding, which was seconded by the Rev. M. GUNN.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

BIRMINGHAM.—The movement for sending a working man to Parliament as one of the representatives of Birmingham, and providing him with 500*l.* a year to live upon, has fallen through. A meeting of representatives of trade societies was held on Thursday evening, to consider the matter, and a resolution was proposed for bringing a working man before the electors. This was met by an amendment in favour of supporting Messrs. Bright, Dixon, and Muntz, the candidates adopted by a large meeting recently held at the Town Hall, and the amendment was carried almost unanimously. Many of the speakers expressed a desire for a representative from their own order, but admitted that at present they were quite powerless to return one, the proposal being generally opposed by the trades' unions, and that an attempt to send a working man would probably let in a Tory. On Monday Mr. Samuel Lloyd was presented with a requisition signed by 8,000 Conservative electors, requesting him to stand for the borough. He consented. It is stated that upwards of 3,000 voters additional have promised their votes, though they declined to sign the requisition.

BRADFORD.—On Thursday evening a conference of the Executive Council, the Ward and Branch Committees, and the canvassers for signatures to the Miall requisition, was held in St. George's Hall, Bradford, to consider the state of the canvass, and the future action dependent thereon. About eight hundred persons first partook of tea in the area of the hall, and the conference was held in the same place. Mr. Robert Kell, president of the Association, was in the chair, and in the course of his opening speech he said that they had not yet canvassed every house—perhaps not even every street; but they had so far gone that he thought himself able to say the success of Mr. Miall at the next election was completely secured. (Loud and continued applause.) The representatives from all the wards having concluded their reports, which were of a highly satisfactory nature, Mr. John Cooke moved:—"That this meeting believes that the state of the canvass, and the reports now made from all parts of the borough, leave no doubt of Mr. Miall's triumphant return at the coming election, and that the Executive Council take prompt steps for the public presentation to Mr. Miall." Mr. Richard Hammond seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. B. Hardaker in a humorous address, and carried amid loud applause. Mr. A. Illingworth next spoke, and on behalf of the Executive Committee, after some remarks on the work they had before them, and in justification of the course they had taken with regard to Mr. Miall, he said they had no quarrel with Mr. Forster. The very reverse of that,—they recognised his abilities, his honesty, his eminent services, and desired to work for him and with him heartily in the ensuing election and in future time. They had now arrived at a stage, when, as the resolution declared, prompt action must be taken. The resolution, he thought properly, put it that they must have a public requisition to Mr. Miall. The committee hoped that Mr. Miall would come down to Bradford, and the requisition be presented to him, in something like a fortnight, at the outside. (Cheers.) He believed the committee had not misjudged what would actually take place as the result of the meeting. The requisition was not completed, or the canvass exhausted, but what had been already done would be a sufficient incentive to all engaged in the work, and before the time for the presentation of the requisition, should be of such a character as to preclude the possibility of failure when the time of battle came. Mr. W. Whitehead moved, "That as the success of Liberal principles depends entirely upon our appeal to the intelligence of the people, this meeting recommends a hearty union of all true Liberals, and a continuance of every exertion by canvass, public meetings, and all other honourable means, thereby securing the return of Messrs. Forster and Miall against all

comers." Mr. W. Angus seconded the resolution, which was carried. The *Bradford Review* says that the design of the committee was, to give almost every householder and lodger in the town an opportunity of signing, or of refusing to sign, this requisition. "At this season of the year, this has been found a very arduous undertaking, and although nearly one thousand canvassers have been to some extent engaged, the work is not yet completed."

BRIDGNORTH.—Mr. Henry Whitmore, one of the Lords of the Treasury, has issued an address, soliciting re-election. As that of a member of the Government, the address possesses some significance. It is chiefly marked by its appeal to the Protestant feeling of the electors. Mr. Whitmore says:—

The great question of the day is the disendowment and the disestablishment of the Church in Ireland, and in reference to this I beg to commend to your serious consideration this one fact—that the measure is strenuously supported in the House of Commons by all those who openly avow their object to be the separation of Church and State in this country, and also by all those whose great purpose is to aggrandise the Church of Rome, and, if possible, to re-establish its ascendancy. This consideration should be sufficient to enlist in the cause I advocate not only all the true and faithful members of the Established Church, but all who are zealous for the cause of the Reformation.

Mr. Whitmore concludes by calling upon "all who would prove themselves loyal subjects of our Protestant Queen, and faithful adherents to the principles of our Protestant Church," to give him a helping hand.

BUCKS.—It is announced that the Conservatives will be content with two out of the three seats for this country, and the Right Hon. B. Disraeli and Mr. Du Pré will be their candidates. Mr. Lambert has already come forward as a Liberal candidate, and should Mr. Remington Mills retire from Wycombe—which loses one member under the new Reform Act—to avoid any division of the Liberal interest, it is in contemplation to bring him forward as a second Liberal candidate for the country. The *Bucks Advertiser* says:—"There is no reason whatever why Mr. Mills and Mr. Lambert should not act together, nor, we believe, if due exertions be used, why they should not both be returned. Negotiations, we learn, are in progress, which we trust may result in so desirable a consummation."

CAMBRIDGE.—At a meeting of the Liberal party last week, Mr. R. R. Torrens was introduced as one of the candidates. The second candidate is Mr. William Fowler, barrister-at-law, and partner in the eminent firm of Alexander and Company, of Lombard-street. Both of these candidates addressed the meeting, and a vote of confidence in them was passed. Viscount Amberley will not stand for Cambridge, but will, it is thought, contest South Devon.

CARDIGANSHIRE.—Sir Thomas Davies Lloyd has issued an address to the electors of the Cardiganshire boroughs, announcing his intention of becoming a candidate for the seat that will be vacated by Colonel Pryse, and it is expected that he will be returned without opposition. Mr. E. M. Vaughan, the Conservative candidate for the county, has also issued an address, in which he states that, if elected, he will render an independent support to a Conservative Government. Mr. Vaughan makes no reference to the Irish Church question, which is a singular omission, when it is remembered that both with Parliament and the public it is considered the great question upon which the elections will turn.

DEWSBURY.—An aggregate public meeting of the inhabitants of Dewsbury was held on Wednesday night in the Market-place to choose a Liberal candidate. About 12,000 persons were present. Two candidates, Mr. Ernest Jones, barrister, and Mr. Handel Cosham, of Bristol, were proposed, both of whom enunciated Radical opinions. The meeting decided by a very large majority in favour of Mr. Jones. At a subsequent meeting of his principal supporters, Mr. Cosham offered, if the Liberal party thought proper, to withdraw from the contest (which offer was met with loud cries of "No, no," from all present). Mr. Cosham advised his supporters to try, during the next three weeks, and ascertain their strength, and if they thought there was a reasonable chance of his being carried, he would be with them at the end of that time. This remark was received with loud cheers. A powerful executive committee, composed of about five-sixths of the Liberal Associations of Dewsbury and Batley (including some fourteen or fifteen town councillors), was then formed, and a thorough canvass of the towns of Batley and Dewsbury resolved upon. At a large open-air meeting at Batley, on Friday, the show of hands was almost unanimous in favour of Mr. Jones, who, however, in returning thanks, said that he would not consent to stand unless he received a requisition signed by half of the electors.

DUBLIN.—Mr. Jonathan Pim again seeks the support of the Dublin constituency, and explains why he could not vote with Mr. Gladstone on the Irish Church question, but now adopts the principles sanctioned by the House of Commons, and will advocate equality for all churches, without State support. The second Liberal candidate has not yet been fixed upon.

DUMFRIES.—Mr. Ernest Noel, of Hookwood, Limpsfield, Surrey, will address the electors of the Dumfries boroughs at a public meeting. Mr. Noel is known to a large circle as the son of the Hon. and Rev. Baptist W. Noel, and is himself not unworthy of a name so deservedly held in honour. He is an "educated Liberal" in the best sense of the word.

EXETER.—The Liberal Association have determined that Mr. Edgar Bowring, son of Sir John Bowring, shall be nominated as the second candidate to stand with Mr. Coleridge at the next election. Should he

contest the seat his opponent will be the Attorney-General (Sir John Karlake). Mr. Coleridge, one of the present members, seeks re-election.

GUILDFORD.—Mr. Onslow, the present Liberal member for Guildford, announces that he means to stand again. Sir Henry Bulwer therefore withdraws, and the only two candidates are Mr. Onslow and Mr. Garth, between whom the contest will be severe.

HAMPSHIRE (SOUTH).—The Right Hon. William Cowper has issued his address announcing himself as a candidate for this division of the county. With reference to the Irish Church, Mr. Cowper says:—

The State must either grant to Roman Catholics new privileges and endowments, or else withdraw from the Established Church some of the privileges conferred upon it by law. I adopt the latter alternative, and I believe that this tardy act of justice will ultimately benefit the Church itself:—Firstly, by raising it out of the false position of claiming to be national, while that claim is repudiated by the bulk of the Irish nation; and, secondly, by stimulating in the Church a new vitality, energy, and zeal. When the Irish Church can no longer lean on the props reared during times of civil war and disputed succession, it must rely on the affection of its members, on the respect it may inspire, and the blessings it can confer.

HASTINGS.—Mr. Waldegrave Leslie will not offer himself to this constituency for re-election. Mr. Thomas Brassey, jun., and Mr. North (who formerly represented the borough) will be the Liberal candidates. Mr. Robertson, the Conservative member, will also retire.

KENT (WEST).—Mr. Charles Henry Mills, of the well-known banking firm, and of Wilderness Park, Sevenoaks, will come forward, in conjunction with John G. Talbot, Esq., of New Falconhurst, Edenbridge, for the new division of West Kent, in opposition to Sir John Lubbock and Mr. Angerstein.

LANCASHIRE (NORTH-EAST).—An influential meeting of the electors of this division was held on Friday, in Accrington, to meet Mr. U. K. Shuttleworth, son of Sir James K. Shuttleworth, who had been invited to come forward as the second Liberal candidate. Mr. James Pilkington, Blackburn, moved, and Mr. England, Colne, seconded, "That Mr. Shuttleworth be accepted as the second candidate in the Liberal interest for this division," and it was carried with applause.

LANCASHIRE (SOUTH-WEST).—The Council of the South-west Lancashire Registration Society have adopted a requisition to Mr. Gladstone to come forward for the West Derby Hundred, and circulars are being forwarded to the electors urging them to sign the requisition without delay. It has also been decided by the council to bring forward another Liberal candidate for the West Derby Hundred, now a separate constituency. Mr. Gladstone having also been invited by the Salford Hundred, has taken time to consider his decision.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—The committee for promoting the election of Mr. Lowe have issued a circular to the graduates of the University, in which they say that of the candidates who have come forward, that gentleman and Mr. Bagehot can alone be said to have any chance of success. They therefore submit that there can be no reason for graduates who prefer Mr. Lowe delaying any longer to declare themselves his supporters. The circular goes on to say that the committee feel assured of success, but that success will be much facilitated if all who intend to vote for Mr. Lowe now declare themselves. A list of the committee is appended. It includes Mr. Julian Goldsmid, M.P. (the chairman), a number of men eminent in every profession, and belonging to nearly every affiliated college, including professors and graduates connected with New, Hackney, Regent's Park, Spring-hill, Western and Lancashire Colleges.

LYMINGTON.—The Hon. Judge Norton, a Liberal, who unsuccessfully contested this borough at the last general election, when he was beaten by Mr. Mackinnon (Liberal) and Lord George Lennox (Conservative), has again come forward.

MALMESBURY.—This borough, which since 1832 has been represented by a brother or nominee of the family of the Earl of Suffolk, will be contested. Viscount Andover, the eldest son of the Earl of Suffolk, will offer himself in the Liberal interest. He will be opposed by Mr. Walter Powell, who resides at Dauntsey House, in the neighbourhood of Malmesbury, who has issued an address in the Conservative interest.

MANCHESTER.—Mr. Ernest Jones has been adopted by the Executive Committee of the United Liberal party as the third candidate for Manchester, in conjunction with Messrs. Bazley and Jacob Bright. Mr. Jones has been chosen as the special representative of the working class interests. There is a rumour that Mr. Mitchell Henry is to be again asked to offer himself as a candidate.

MARYLEBONE.—On Monday night a crowded meeting of the Marylebone Electoral Reform Association, which is said to comprise about 2,000 members, was held at the Waterloo Arms, High-street, Marylebone, Mr. W. Cremer in the chair. A letter was read from Mr. Frederick Harrison, recommending that a *bona fide* working man should be "run" for the borough. The chairman said that great dissatisfaction existed in the borough with respect to the present representatives, and the working classes in the borough were determined there should be a contest. The association were in communication with Dr. Sandwith of Kara, who had been recommended by Mr. Goldwin Smith. Failing him, a gentleman of national reputation, but whose name he could not then mention, would come forward. It would be impossible to return a working man for the borough. Mr. Bannister proposed, and Mr. Edwards seconded, the following resolution:—"That this meeting believes that the present representation of the borough is not calculated to increase the reputation of metropolitan constituencies, or to enhance the value of re-

presentative institutions." Professor Beasley, in supporting the resolution, remarked that no metropolitan constituency was more unworthily represented than Marylebone. The resolution was carried. A further resolution pledged the association "to bring forward other candidates, so that the working classes and the new electors may have the opportunity of deciding the character of the representation of the borough."

MERTHYR.—Mr. Henry Richard has issued his address to the electors of Merthyr, Waynor, and Aberdare. He commences with a reference to the spontaneous movement originated last autumn with a view to induce him to become a candidate for that constituency, which was followed by a canvass showing that a large proportion of the electors were anxious for him to come forward. Mr. Richard now claims the fulfilment of the resolutions and promises on the faith of which he accepted the proffered candidature. In the exposition of his political principles he says:—

The special ground on which so many of you did me the honour to choose me as your candidate was this:—That being a thorough Nonconformist, I was supposed to understand and to sympathise with, and so far at least, to be qualified to represent, the opinions and wishes of a constituency, the overwhelming majority of whom are Nonconformists. This, so far from being a sectarian, is, in a very emphatic sense, an anti-sectarian movement, seeing that its object is to prevent the monopoly, by one dominant sect, of the representation of a whole country (for you had regard in this matter not to your own borough merely, but to all Wales), three-fourths of whose inhabitants belong to other religious communions whose rights and interests have continually to be defended in the Legislature against the exclusive privileges and pretensions of that one dominant sect. All the reasons which existed for such a choice then, apply now with greatly augmented force. For it is obvious that the most important questions which must engage the attention of the country and of Parliament for some time to come, are questions in which Nonconformists are specially interested, and in the settlement of which I venture to believe their aid will be of great value, because they have well-defined convictions on the subjects that will come up for discussion.

Many of you will remember the prominence I gave in my addresses of last autumn to the question of the Irish Church, and the emphasis with which I insisted on its entire disestablishment as the only satisfactory way of disposing of that huge anomaly and injustice. This view has since then been put forward by Mr. Gladstone, and accepted by the unanimous voice of his followers as the foremost article in the political creed of the Liberal party. But I should vote for it not because it has become a party measure, but because I have been long convinced of its intrinsic rightness. On all questions of religious liberty, I claim not toleration, but absolute equality, since I hold that no loyal citizen ought in any degree to be prejudiced as respects his civil and political rights on account of his religious convictions. And as this absolute equality can never be reached while any one sect is taken into special union with the State, I advocate a total severance of that union, not only as an indispensable condition of civil and social justice, but as most conducive to both the purity and prosperity of the Church.

With these views I need hardly say that I should vote for the removal of all impositions and disabilities which place Dissenters in a position of inferiority to their fellow subjects of the Church of England, whether as respects the payment of Church-rates, or their admission, on a footing of perfect equality with others, into the universities and grammar-schools, and to the free use of the parochial churchyards. With still more pleasure would I vote for the total emancipation of religion from its corrupting alliance with the State.

The question of education is evidently entering on a new phase, and will require careful and comprehensive treatment. In the consideration of any measure that may be proposed on this subject, I shall be guided by these two principles, first, to render education itself as universal and efficient as possible, and secondly, in doing so jealous care should be taken that the rights of conscience shall be scrupulously protected.

The remainder of Mr. Richard's address refers to the necessity of completing the Reform Act by a better distribution of seats, and the adoption of the ballot, speaks of the importance of administrative and legal reform, advocates the principle of non-intervention in foreign affairs, the reduction of our armaments, and the adoption of measures tending to bring the great Governments of Europe to an agreement for the establishment of a system of stipulated arbitration, or some form of international jurisdiction for the settlement of differences between States.

MORPETH.—Sir George Grey addressed a meeting of his constituents, at Bedlington, on Thursday evening. The right hon. baronet first reviewed the more important legislation which had succeeded the passing of the act of 1832, in which he had taken part. He then criticised the conduct of the Conservative party in so vehemently opposing the Reform Bill of Earl Russell in 1866, and in supporting a far more democratic measure in 1867. Sir George defended the course which the Liberal party had taken on the question of the Irish Church. It was one surrounded by immense difficulties, and involved many and various interests, and required therefore great discretion, judgment, and moderation in dealing with it. Having alluded to the proposals of Mr. Pitt and the Government of Lord Melbourne, Sir George admitted that what might at one time have proved a satisfactory settlement of the question could not now be adopted, and that therefore he had not hesitated in giving his support to Mr. Gladstone's propositions. He trusted that in the Reformed House of Commons the question would be approached and dealt with in the right spirit—the spirit of sympathy with the feelings of the majority of the people in Ireland. He did not, he added, share the apprehensions which had been expressed by many that the disestablishment of the Church in Ireland must bring about a like dis-

establishment in England. A vote of confidence in the right hon. baronet was passed.

NEWPORT, MON.—On Monday night week a crowded and enthusiastic meeting of the Liberal party, convened and presided over by the mayor, was held in the Town Hall. The resolutions were carried unanimously. Colonel Lyne moved, and Mr. H. Phillips seconded:—"That this meeting, being dissatisfied with the present representation of the Monmouth boroughs in Parliament, considers the approaching dissolution to be a fitting occasion for bringing such representation into harmony with the views of the electors." Mr. W. Graham (ex-mayor) moved, Captain Murphy seconded, and the Rev. H. Oliver, B.A., supported—"That any candidate desirous of becoming our representative in Parliament should strenuously support the disestablishment of the Irish Church, the impartial disendowment of all religious bodies in Ireland, and the opening of the universities to the people of England, irrespective of creed or sect." Mr. Alderman Brown moved, and Mr. Vaughan seconded, the appointment of a committee of twenty-four, embracing representatives of all classes, to select a suitable candidate, and to invite him at an early day to address the electors. That committee has invited Sir John Ramsden, Bart., formerly one of the members for the West Riding of Yorkshire, to address the electors. Sir John is expected to visit Newport, Usk, and Monmouth in the course of a few days. The Conservatives have not yet commenced organising, but it is understood that should Mr. Crawshaw Bailey not seek re-election, Mr. Samuel Homfray will be brought forward by the party.

NORWICH.—The conflict in this city continues. At a meeting held at Catton on Monday last week, at which from 12,000 to 15,000 persons were present, Mr. J. H. Tillett made a long speech, which was enthusiastically cheered. He concluded by saying—

We have in Norwich, I believe, some thousands of men devoted to our cause. There are three thousand working men at least at this moment whose hearts beat with warm enthusiasm on behalf of that cause; and that, I may state, is a low estimate. Will these three thousand working men work heartily for themselves, for their own cause, for the interests of their wives and children? will they go forth to do all they can amongst their neighbours? The cause, which is their own, is that of liberty, of the defending their vote from infringement, of seeing themselves and their interests fairly represented in Parliament. I see an earnest body of working men before me. We are met here in one corner of the suburbs of our city; still there are here hundreds upon hundreds of working men with honest hearts, prepared to work for the cause of liberty. (Shouts of "Yes, yes.") I stand merely to fight your battle, to win for you a glorious victory, and if you will fight as you ought I will fight as I ought, so that you may return me to Parliament. It is not my poor name that will do any good; but in returning me you will return the people's man—(Hear, hear)—at the head of the poll by thousands. (Cheers.) There will be from 10,000 to 12,000 electors, of whom 8,000 will be working men. Give me your hearts, and you will achieve for Norwich and for England a victory that will be one of the most glorious ever recorded in our history. It is not that you return me, but it is that you return your own man against all cliques, against all slanders, and against all attempts to trick and deceive you. (Loud cheers.)

The following resolution was carried with acclamation—"That we pledge ourselves to use every legitimate and constitutional means to return Mr. Tillett to Parliament as the popular candidate by a large majority." On Wednesday there was a stormy meeting of the Liberal party at the Royal Hotel, at which the sitting members were present. Every speech made was interrupted by shouts of "The people's candidates," "Tillett and Warner," &c., which were provoked by the remarks made, especially the personal allusions of Sir W. Foster, the chairman. Sir W. Russell in the course of his speech said he was prepared to make way for a gentleman, but it must be a gentleman who was acceptable to the whole Liberal party. Shouts of "What objection to Tillett?" They were prepared to fight if necessary, but they were anxious to avoid that necessity. Mr. Warner followed, and at the close of his speech there were renewed shouts of "Tillett and Warner." The chairman then adjourned the meeting, and the Whig party left the room. A new chairman was appointed, and those who subsequently spoke, expressed their resolution to support Mr. Tillett. Subsequently a deputation waited upon the sitting members to represent to them the strong feeling in Norwich in favour of carrying Mr. Tillett with Mr. Warner. The *Norfolk News* says—"We have no express authority for stating, but we have no doubt it will turn out to be true, that both the members have retired, leaving themselves thus far in the hands of the party, that if either of them be required he will be willing to come again. But we believe that neither will oppose himself to the popular feeling and so continue the division. There is, therefore, still hope that a reconciliation may be effected." Mr. Colman, the mayor, has been indicated by the Whig committee as a candidate who would be acceptable to them, but he has absolutely declined to stand against Mr. Tillett.

OLDHAM.—Mr. Serjeant Spinks and Mr. J. M. Cobbett have consented to contest the borough with the present members, Messrs. Hibbert and Platt.

SHEFFIELD.—On Monday night an open-air meeting was held at Sheffield, at which 10,000 to 15,000 persons were present, to hear addresses from Mr. Mundella, of Nottingham, who has been brought forward in opposition to Mr. Roebuck. An almost unanimous vote was passed in favour of Mr. Mundella, who declared his intention of contesting the seat to the utmost of his power. Another resolution was passed regretting the alliance which existed between Mr. Hadfield and Mr. Roebuck.

TOWER HAMLETS.—Mr. Edmond Beales, M.A., president of the Reform League, is now definitely before the electors of the Tower Hamlets as a candidate for the representation of that borough. A committee sits daily at the Burdett Arms, Burdett-road, Limehouse, and an active canvass is being prosecuted. Several influential vestrymen have joined the committee, and extensive promises of support among the trading and commercial classes have been obtained for Mr. Beales. Mr. Octavius E. Coope, of the firm of Ind and Coope, brewers, of Whitechapel, Romford, and Burton-on-Trent, has come forward as the "Constitutional" candidate.

WAKEFIELD.—On Thursday evening Mr. Somerset Beaumont, who succeeds Mr. W. H. Leatham as the candidate of the Liberal party, addressed a large meeting at Wakefield, and met with a cordial reception. He spoke chiefly on the Irish Church question, avowing himself strongly in favour of disendowment and disestablishment. In reference to the present Reform Bill, he expressed himself strongly in favour of its general principle, having long advocated a wide extension of the suffrage; but it would require amending by a more just redistribution of seats. He did not, however, think that any scheme of redistribution would be complete until the glaring anomaly in the qualification for the county franchise as compared with that for boroughs was removed. He was also in favour of the ballot, and he was not opposed to trades' unions. He concluded by lauding Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright. A resolution in favour of Mr. Beaumont was carried nearly unanimously. The Conservatives had not yet started a candidate, but it is expected they will do so.

WESTMINSTER.—Mr. W. H. Smith has accepted the invitation to become a candidate for Westminster. The requisition to him was signed by the Prime Minister and the other Cabinet Ministers, about sixty members of Parliament, and over 2,000 present electors of Westminster, and 1,000 prospective electors. Mr. Smith, in a brief address to the deputation, said he was opposed heartily and sincerely to the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church in Ireland, though he could not deny the necessity of dealing with some branches, and in conclusion said that if returned to Parliament he should enter the House as a Liberal-Conservative, bound neither hand nor foot. Admiral Rous is spoken of as the second Conservative candidate for Westminster.

WILTS (NORTH).—The Marquis of Worcester has retired. His lordship states that his sole object in coming forward was to regain the seat which had been so long held by the Conservative party. To effect this, united action in favour both of himself and Sir George Jenkinson was absolutely necessary, but as he regrets to find that this will not be the case, he does not think it fair to the county to give it the turmoil of a contest which can only end in the return of one member from each side.

YORK.—It is believed that a considerable addition—amounting to at least two-thirds of the present constituency—will be made to the list of voters for this city. Neither of the present members (Mr. Lowther and Mr. Leeman) has announced his intention of offering himself for re-election, but no doubt whatever is felt that both will do so. The Liberals think they can now return two members. It is probable that Mr. Westhead, who formerly represented York, will be asked to become the colleague of Mr. Leeman.

ALLEGED NEW POEM BY JOHN MILTON.

A few days ago Professor H. Morley, of University College, announced that he had discovered in the King's Library of the British Museum an unpublished poem by Milton. It is in the handwriting of Milton himself, on a blank page in the volume of "Poems, both English and Latin," is signed with his initials, and dated October, 1647. It is entitled simply "An Epitaph," is fifty-four lines in length, and is as follows:—

AN EPITAPH.

He whom heaven did call away
Out of this Hermitage of clay
Has left some reliques in this Urn
As a pledge of his return.

Meanwhile the Muses do deplore
The loss of this their paramour,
With whom he sported ere the day
Budded forth its tender ray.
And now Apollo leaves his lays
And puts on cypress for his bays;
The sacred sisters tune their quills
Only to the blubbering rille,
And while his doom they think upon
Make their own tears their Helicon:
Leaving the two-topt Mount divine
To turn votaries to his shrine.
Think not, reader, me less blest,
Sleeping in this narrow chest,
Than if my ashes did lie hid
Under some stately pyramid.
If a rich tomb makes happy, then
That Bee was happier far than men,
Who, busy in the thymy wood,
Was fettered by the golden flood
Which from the Amber-weeping tree
Distilleth down so plenteously;
For so this little wanton elf
Most gloriously enshrined itself.
A tomb whose beauty might compare
With Cleopatra's sepulchre.

In this little bed my dust
Incurtained round I here intrust;
While my more pure and nobler part
Lies entomb'd in every heart.

Then pass on gently, ye that mourn,
Touch not this mine hollowed Urn;
These Ashes which do here remain
A vital tincture still retain;

A seminal form within the deeps
Of this little chaos sleeps;
The thread of life untwisted is
Into its first existencies;
Infant nature cradled here
In its principles appear;
This plant, though entered into dust,
In its Ashes rest it must
Until sweet Psyche shall inspire
A softening and ætifer fire,
And in her fostering arms enfold
This heavy and this earthly mould.
Then as I am I'll be no more,
But bloom and blossom [as] before,
When this cold numbness shall retreat
By a more than chymick heat.

J. M., Ober, 1647.

Mr. Rye, the assistant-keeper of the printed books in the British Museum, writes to the *Times*, asserting that the initials appended to the poem are "P. M.," and not "J. M.," as quoted by Mr. Morley, and giving his opinion and that of another expert that the lines are certainly not in Milton's autograph.

Mr. Morley, in a reply to Mr. Rye, says he has gone over the MS. of the poem which he supposes to be Milton's with the help of Mr. Bond. On the question of handwriting Mr. Morley speaks with deference to the opinion of Mr. Bond as that of an expert, but nevertheless retains his conviction that the writing is that of the poet. About the authorship he has no doubt whatever. Closer examination enables him to supply some emendations. For example, the word "ætifer," which was a stumbling-block to many people, should be read, it appears, "prolific"; the old contraction for *pro* was mistaken for the diphthong *æ*.

The Earl of Winchelsea does not believe that the poem discovered in the King's Library of the British Museum by Professor Morley bears the evidence of Milton's authorship. His lordship dissects the production, and criticises it almost line by line. One part is voted "bathos"; another, "rubbish"; in a third "there is a crumb of comfort for the poor rhymesters of the nineteenth century"; a fourth "smacks of filling a gap in a tenth-rate copy of verses." Assuming its authenticity, Lord Winchelsea maintains that Milton "must have been very old and very ill" when he commenced his poem, but towards the end he must certainly have gone what is vulgarly called "off his head." Upon no other principle could he have perpetrated such a "jumble from Bedlam" as the last ten lines.

Archdeacon Denison has entered the lists in defence of the new poem. He thinks it "eminently beautiful, very complete and finished, and worthy in all respects the great name it bears."

ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE FOR INFANTS.—On Saturday a bazaar in aid of this very excellent institution took place at the Institution at Hornsey-rise, under distinguished patronage, and attracted a most brilliant company. Amongst the principal supporters are the Princess of Wales (after whom the institution is named), the Crown Princess of Prussia, the Princess Christian, and the Duchess and Princess Mary Adelaide (Princess Teck) of Cambridge, the Duchess of Sutherland, who, in the name of the Princess of Wales, laid the foundation stone of the present building, the Duchess of Argyll, and the Duchess of Wellington. The Alexandra Orphanage consists of a series of nurseries for helpless orphan inmates. Four of them are already built and finished, at a cost of 2,800*l.*, the collection of one young lady. Of this sum Mr. Samuel Morley and Mrs. Lamien have each contributed 500*l.* Two others are secured by the contributions of two friends of the project, and a seventh has been raised through the subscribers of the *Christian World* newspaper. The four already completed are named respectively Alexandra, Excelsior, Morley, and Lamien, and an eighth is in progress to be designated the John Bunyan Cottage, provision being made by a copyright proprietor of "Pilgrim's Progress," by which the means will be forthcoming to complete its erection. In the centre of these homes or nurseries is situated the Great Hall, of Gothic design, which, together with the marquees and tents in the open ground, was on Saturday devoted to the fancy fair and bazaar. It is gratifying to be able to state that the goods of every possible variety are of the aggregate value of between 2,000*l.* and 3,000*l.*, and that not only the ladies of our own royal family, but the Empress of the French, are amongst the contributors. Although the charge for admission on Saturday was half a crown, there was an immense company, and the indefatigable exertions of Miss Soul, the daughter of the honorary secretary, Mr. Joseph Soul, and the other young ladies who took charge of the stalls, did them the greatest possible credit.

IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL OF A COLONIAL JUDGE.—The unusual step of removing a judge has been taken in the case of Chief Justice Beaumont, of the colony of British Guiana. The local Court of Policy presented a memorial to the Crown, impeaching the Chief Justice on seven charges, the most important of which were—improperly and intemperately holding up the executive government to hatred and obloquy; vexatiously taking occasion to embarrass the colonial administration; administering harsh and vindictive punishments; using offensive, intemperate, and calumnious language; illegally exercising arbitrary power; and improperly interfering with the judicial records. The case was argued for several days before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and, at the recommendation of their lordships, the Crown has just issued an Order in Council removing the Chief Justice from his office.—*Daily News*.

Literature.

DR. DAVIDSON ON THE NEW TESTAMENT.*

When will men learn their own limits? For any one man to attempt a "Bible Dictionary" or "Cyclopædia," each and every article of which should be the fruit of his own study, and written with his own hands, would in these days be acknowledged to be an act of most perilous presumption. Nor is it less, but rather more, presumptuous for a single writer to attempt an introduction, "critical, exegetical, theological," to the whole Bible. Almost every book of Scripture opens up questions—critical, historic, scientific—so numerous and profound as to demand for their resolution a learning the most minute, various, comprehensive. To answer all the questions suggested by all the Biblical books is beyond the power of the most gifted of men. Each book demands the patient study of years, not simply that its literary and scientific aspects may be mastered, but that the commentator may possess himself of its very spirit, bring out its more subtle and delicate shades of meaning, and so furnish the best reply, the only complete and satisfactory reply, to the notes and queries of critical scepticism. The patient long-continued study of its separate books is indeed generally conceded to be a much more hopeful and promising method of approaching the Bible than that of attempting commentaries, dictionaries, introductions, which aim at covering its whole contents. The latter task must, to a large extent, be a mere compilation—a reproduction of other men's thoughts; and, when achieved, can afford but little help to the thorough student. He of course will betake himself to the original authorities, to the works of men who have selected a more limited field of labour, and have bestowed more husbandry upon it, with larger and more fruitful results.

Dictionaries, introductions, &c., which cover, or assume to cover, the whole ground of Scripture, are useful, therefore, only, or mainly, to men who must depend on them more than is wise, to men who have not leisure and learning for original research, and for consulting authorities. They appeal precisely to those who are least competent to prove, and check, and correct them. The very first requisite is, therefore, that they should be trustworthy, that those who use them may use them without fear of being misled. And to this end it is surely indispensable that they should be written by men who believe in the Scriptures—who love them, and are at pains to bring out their meaning and beauty; by men of sober mind and steadfast character, free from crotchets and conceits, not moving with every wind that blows, not lovers of change for the mere sake of change, not easily misled by specious arguments, and, still less, eager to snatch at any mere semblance of argument which will conduct them to novel and adverse conclusions.

In these qualifications for the task he has assumed, we regret to say that to us Dr. Davidson, despite his various learning, seems wholly wanting. The defects which were conspicuous in his "Introduction to the Old Testament," appear in this "Introduction to the New Testament" in an exaggerated form. Honestly, so far from being an "Introduction to the Study of the New Testament," we should rather name his work "*Dissuaves from the Study of the New Testament.*" The main theological conclusions at which he arrives are, that the Lord Jesus was not the Son of God, i.e., not the Son of God in the sense that He was God, and was with God, from the beginning; that He wrought no miracle; that He did not rise from the dead. With such a view of Christ, having thus taken the Gospel out of the Gospels, the wonder is that Dr. Davidson should think them worthy of his study or ours, or hold that the words of Christ—who claimed to be one with the Father, and to do many mighty works, and to have risen from a grave which could not hold Him—any longer deserve the attention of sensible truth-loving men. The wonder grows as we ascertain his main critical conclusions to be, that no one of the Gospels was written by the man whose name it bears, nor for more than a hundred years after the birth of Christ; that Luke did not write the Acts of the Apostles; and that many of the Epistles were not written by the authors to whom they are attributed, nor till long after they were in their graves. To reduce the New Testament to a series of forgeries, palmed on an uncritical generation, is surely to offer a strange incen-

tive to the study of it. We, at least, could we accept Dr. Davidson's conclusions, should rather renounce it, and regret that we had wasted so many years upon it.

Unwelcome as we confess his conclusions would be to us, we nevertheless trust that we have long been prepared to weigh and consider any arguments adduced in their behalf. But he is not much addicted to argument. As a rule he speaks even with a harsh assumption of authority, and expects apparently that we should adopt his conclusions simply because they are his. Take only one instance out of many: he is about, he tells us, to discuss the New Testament books, in their chronological order. And characteristically enough, the first book he considers is "the Second Epistle to the Thessalonians." If we ask why the Second instead of the First, there is no vestige of reply. In his article on the Second Letter, he affirms, "the date of the present epistle is about A.D. 52." In his article on the First Letter, he affirms, "the date is about A.D. 53; it may have been written six months later than the former one." And this is absolutely all he has to say on the point. He does not condescend to give us a single reason in support of his verdict, that the Second Letter to the Thessalonians is the first Scripture of the New Testament. He has spoken, and that is to be enough for us.

It is enough in one sense. For where he gives reasons for the peculiar conclusions at which he has arrived, they appear to us, as they once appeared to him, to be of little force. Twenty years ago, in A.D. 1848, Dr. Davidson published an "Introduction" which now lies before us. And, singular to say, he then refuted the leading arguments which he now urges upon us as of an irrefutable power. Our limits forbid us to quote instances and proofs of this assertion; but our readers will find a few of them in an article in the *Free Churchman* of June, and no doubt will find more of them in longer reviews. It is very true, as Dr. Davidson remarks in the preface to his new "Introduction," that "twenty years' study may well modify, correct, or enlarge views to which an honest though less perfect investigation had formerly led;" but it would have been more accurate had he said that his views had rather been reversed than modified or enlarged, and reversed by arguments not unknown to him or unconsidered even twenty years ago. The simple fact is, that it is he who has changed, not the arguments; and the change is not, as it seems to us, for the better, but very much for the worse.

For whatever straining after novelty, whatever self-confidence and dictatorial assumptions may be found in his earlier writings, no one will charge them with want of candour or boldness. It would be hard to defend him from such a charge now. Twenty years ago, with all his faults of haste, harshness, exaggeration, it was impossible not to admire the freedom and sincerity of his search for truth, and the fearlessness with which he announced his convictions. It is with more regret than we care to express that we find he has now withdrawn from us this ground of sympathy and admiration. His handling of texts is so disingenuous, so uncandid, their meaning is so forced and strained to fit it to foregone conclusions, and these conclusions even when of the gravest moment are so ambiguously stated, as to show that the mind, once so sincere and fearless, has been warped and enfeebled by prejudice. It would take a volume to deal with all the instances of this unfair and ambiguous treatment of Holy Writ. We have marked at least a score in fifty pages of the article on the Acts of the Apostles (see vol. ii. pp. 209-254); a book which Dr. Davidson supposes to have been written, by an unknown person, about A.D. 125, and which he regards as a fiction based on traditions, designed to reconcile the Jewish and Gentile Christians, by showing that St. Paul did the same works, passed through the same experiences, uttered the same sentiments, with St. Peter, although, of course, such coincidences are so "highly improbable" as to be quite incredible. Let any competent and fair-minded man read these pages for himself, and we do not see how he can escape the conclusion that, for him at least, to use Scripture in this way would be to wrest it to his own purposes with violence and design. But though our space will not permit us to enter into these details of criticism, we may give a crucial instance of the ambiguity with which Dr. Davidson insinuates rather than states opinions adverse to the accepted convictions of thoughtful Christian men. We have said that he denies the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ—a fact which St. Paul holds to be cardinal and indispensable to the Christian faith: we ought rather to have said that he insinuates his denial of it. Here are his two main deliverances on this supreme

fact. Discussing the closing chapters of St. John's Gospel, he says:—

"The subject of the resurrection must be looked at from the stand-point of the evangelists' time, not from ours. Should we view it as they did, the narratives must be taken in their plain and literal sense. But if philosophy and science suggest the rejection of oriental conceptions, the growth of ideas from small beginnings, and the transforming power of tradition, the resurrection will present a different aspect."—Vol. II. p. 339.

The passage is dark enough surely, and not through excess of light. Of course, when we consider it, we know that its author will be found on the side of philosophy and science, or on the side on which he supposes science and philosophy to stand; that he holds the Evangelists' view of the resurrection to be an oriental conception which has sprung from a small beginning, and been transformed by tradition into its present shape and proportions; and that he means to rebuke those who accept the view of the Evangelists for their opposition to philosophy and science; but there was a time when he would frankly have spoken out his thought, not have left us to interpret an oracular and veiled utterance.

In discussing the last chapter of St. Luke, he lets us see a little more clearly what that "different aspect" is which the resurrection presents to scientific philosophers, although even here his words hardly ring with the frankness of profound conviction. He says—

"Ordinary principles of interpretation applied to the chapter, fail to bring out any definite knowledge of its contents; and the higher criticism must be content with an idealising process. Conservative critics will attach importance to the letter of the evangelic records to the empty sepulchre, to the difficulty of supposing mere visions in the mind of the disciples the second day after Jesus died, to the numerous witnesses for the bodily resurrection, and the probability of the miracle here if at all. They will hesitate to forsake the old faith of the Church—a step involving the serious assumption that the apostles were deceived, in the form of their belief at least, if not in its essence. Others, more speculative, but not less honest, will resolve the fact into a spiritual resurrection, having the souls of the disciples for its theatre; finding an explanation of that state of mind in the natural reaction necessarily following the first impression of the death of Jesus, psychologically possible. They will attribute visions of the risen Jesus, narrated in the gospels, to popular imagination, conceiving that the memoirs could not but depict him in a form more or less corporeal. Feeling the force of objections to the animation of a body, of the contradictory statements of the evangelists, the different points of view taken in Paul's epistles, and the existence of a predisposition to visions in the Christian believers, they will hesitate to accept the literal. But not the less they will maintain that Christianity does not fall with the denial of the resurrection; especially as the fact is reported in a manner so contradictory, and susceptible of different interpretations. A thing surrounded with historical and other difficulties will not be made a corner stone in the edifice. And they are right, if the superior dignity of Jesus rests upon his stainless conscience, his life of love and purity, his words of truth, his embodiment of the Father to mankind; if the glorious manifestation of Divine love in a human person be the essence of his biography; if he be the 'express image' of the Almighty."—Vol. II., pp. 40, 41.

We say nothing now and here of the clumsy composition of this passage, of its bad logic, of its assumption of facts in the teeth of contrary evidence, of the insufficiency even of its assumptions to sustain the conclusion it builds upon them. We point only to its indirectness and ambiguity. We do not want to hear what "conservative critics," or "others more speculative" but not less honest, think, or will think, any more than we care to learn what those who take "the stand-point of the evangelists' time," will accept, or those who follow the suggestions of "philosophy and science" will reject. What we want to know, what we have a right to know, is, what are Dr. Davidson's conclusions, and with what arguments he is prepared to support them. And these are insinuated rather than stated in the two passages before us, the only passages in which he discusses the momentous question of the resurrection of our Lord. It would have been more candid, more honourable, more in accordance with the moral tone of his previous writings, had he, instead of penning these "ambiguous givings out," frankly avowed that the Apostles did regard the resurrection of Christ as of the very "essence" of their "belief," and that, in his judgment, they were "deceived." That this is his position there can be no doubt; and it is a position fatal, in our judgment, to the Christian faith, could it be maintained. The whole Gospel turns upon the fact that "Jesus rose from the dead according to the Scriptures"; and if the Apostles were, or could have been, deceived on a point so cardinal and essential as this, to us, at least, their writings would no longer have any claim on the faith or deference of sensible and thoughtful men.

It is with profound regret that we find Dr. Davidson taking this position, and taking it with a certain subtlety and craft which we should have thought altogether alien to his character. We regret it for his sake, although we—the present reviewer—have never met him,

* *An Introduction to the Study of the New Testament, Critical, Exegetical, and Theological.* By SAMUEL DAVIDSON, D.D. Two vols. London: Longmans.

and know nothing of him save that he has written learnedly on Biblical themes, and has suffered for the independence and freedom of his thoughts. But much more we regret it for the sake of free thought and inquiry. Once more we shall be told, with many voices in many tones, that there is no resting-place between accepting the wisdom of our fathers and unfaith in the most sacred verities of the Gospel; that to think freely and originally is to take the first step on the slippery incline of scepticism, from which we must either spring back to a blind unquestioning credence or fall into utter infidelity. Here, once more, is an able and liberal man who "did run well," but has now become a hindrance and a stone of stumbling to all who are fain to follow in his steps. We cannot but think that a little more patience and calmness and candour, a stronger determination not to be driven to extreme and unsound conclusions by the stupidity and violence of bigots, might have saved him from this shipwreck of faith, and all who love free thought from having his example held up to them as a warning and a rebuke. As it is, we can only strive to "possess our souls in patience" amid the windy clamour his defection is sure to provoke, and, while standing firmly in "the old ways," to look earnestly for "the new."

THE QUARTERLIES ON STATE-CHURCHISM.*

Of the growing importance of the State-Church question, we have a significant indication in the fact that three of the leading quarterlies devote articles to the subject, two of which deal with fundamental principles rather than with the special circumstances of the Irish Establishment. The *Edinburgh* article will disappoint expectations, for it is in decided antagonism to the present policy of the Liberal party, and is as illiberal in its spirit as it is Erastian in its principles. Still we have the testimony from the writer that the Free Churchism which he so much dislikes and so shamefully misrepresents is in the ascendant. "We do not," he says, "disguise from ourselves that, in spite of the powerful arguments which ought in our judgment to prevail in favour of Churches established and controlled by law, the current of public opinion has set strongly in the opposite direction, not only in this but in many foreign countries." Perhaps the feeling that he is supporting a desperate cause has lent something of bitterness to his advocacy, for there is certainly a striking contrast between the breadth of the basis on which he would have a National Church established, and the narrowness with which he regards the supporters of Free Churches. He is not at all staggered by the wide diversity of opinion at present existing in the Anglican Church, but on the contrary rejoices that her unity is "a legal unity, which is compatible with large theological difference and a vast amount of personal freedom of opinion." But for those who disbelieve in the action of the State-Church altogether, who insist that the Government has nothing to do with formulating creeds, or regulating Church procedure, and who therefore would restrict the action of the State in all religious questions to a provision that justice should be done between man and man, he has no tolerance. He either misunderstands, or misrepresents their principles, he exhibits them in the most invidious light, and brings against them the most inconsistent accusations; he endeavours to excite against Free Churchism the strongest prejudice by representing it as identified with the worst forms of ecclesiastical tyranny, and seems hardly able to treat with proper respect and fairness even its most moderate advocates.

Mr. Stoughton is one of the most kindly and catholic of writers, and his "Ecclesiastical History" has been more than once commended even by opponents for its fairness and generosity. But this Whig reviewer tells us—"Mr. John Stoughton has written a book of considerable value on the Ecclesiastical History of England from the opening of the Long Parliament to the death of Oliver Cromwell. Unfortunately it is composed in a bitter and narrow spirit, for Mr. Stoughton is a Congregationalist, extremely opposed to all constituted forms of Church government, and especially to those connected with the State." If it were not assumed that a Free Churchman must necessarily be narrow, we cannot understand how any one could thus describe a book which treats even Laud himself with a moderation which the writer of this article would have done well to imitate in his criticism of opponents. Unfortu-

nately for himself and for the cause which he advocates, he has furnished the clearest proof that his strong Erastianism is as unfair in its temper as the strongest forms of High Churchism. He knows well that there is nothing more unpopular in England than the Jesuit order, and therefore he chooses to exhibit it as at once the type of a Free Church, and of absolute power. "The example we have chosen may surprise the Nonconformists of England and the Free Churchmen of Scotland who abhor the Jesuits as the children of Satan; but the analogy is true and complete. The Jesuits have succeeded in creating and maintaining, in its highest perfection, a species of Church government of which our Dissenting sects are but feeble imitators. They are the most complete expression of a religious corporation, absolutely freed from the control of the law."

Such representations may serve a purpose, but they would never be adopted by a candid writer desirous to give a fair view of his subject. The Society of the Jesuits is doubtless an independent ecclesiastical corporation, a Free Church, if you so choose to call it, and is at the same time the most potent instrument for tyranny that the world has ever seen. But it is absurd to argue that its terrible despotism is the necessary result of its independence of State control, and that all Churches which are free must also necessarily be equally arbitrary and cruel in their procedure. The fallacy of the reasoning lies in the idea that Free Churches claim to be exempt from the control of the law. A disestablished, or Free Church, is defined as "a Church disconnected from the laws of the land, over which the legislature has no power"; and were the definition strictly true, and especially were the governing body a clergy supposed to be possessed of a Divine authority inherent in them, the growth of such communities might well be regarded with alarm. We may admit even that there are Free Churches which put forth such pretensions; but this certainly is not the idea of English Nonconformists. They claim the right to settle their own creeds, their own form of Church government, their own modes of worship, and their internal discipline, but they do not attempt to repudiate the authority of the State on matters which properly come within its cognisance. They deny the authority of Parliament to interfere with the conditions of their fellowship, but they have never refused to acknowledge the rights of the courts of law to decide whether those conditions have been properly carried out in any particular case. The reviewer points to the Cardross case as an illustration in his favour. But the Free Church of Scotland, in deposing Mr. Macmillan, simply on the ground that in appealing to the Civil Court he had violated the terms of his own agreement, took a course with which English Nonconformists in general have no sympathy. They would for the most part accept the principle of Lord Deas, that "no voluntary association can, by any agreement among its members, assume a jurisdiction which flows only from the legislative power and the royal prerogative." There have been frequent appeals to the courts of law on questions of ecclesiastical property, or where both parties have recognised their right to decide whether or not the conditions of the trust had been observed. They deny the power of the State to prescribe what those conditions shall be; but, in common with a multitude of secular associations, which exercise a similar right of making the laws for the management of their own affairs, they admit the authority of the Courts to determine whether those laws have been fairly administered. The writer's objections lie, not against the idea of Free Churchism, but against special forms which it has assumed, and there is a singular want either of logic or candour in the attempt to confound the two together. The extreme High Churchism which he condemns is to be found both in established and in disestablished communities, and it is unfair to identify it either with the one or the other. It is as distasteful to us as it is to the reviewer, but he believes that it is likely to flourish in Free Churches; we believe (and history sustains us in the opinion) that it will be most developed in an Established Church.

The writer points to America as illustrating the evils of the voluntary system, and gives another evidence of his unfairness in the deference he shows to the authority of Lord Robert Montagu, and "his able and authentic sketch of the American voluntary system." We shall not stop to compare the religious condition of the United States with that of our own country, or to inquire whether there is that "manifest decline in the high moral tone of the American people" of which the reviewer speaks. Random assertions, like those we find here, have been often made and as often refuted, and a further examination of them is as unnecessary

as, with our limited space, it would be impracticable. But why has not America been appealed to on the point specially discussed in this article? Here is a great people without an Established Church, and if the necessary result of this state of things is to foster the growth of spiritual despotism, we might expect to find it in full development. But the very opposite is the case. Nowhere has the priest less power, nowhere is there more absolute freedom of religious opinion and action.

The surest evidence of this is afforded in the statement of Lord Robert Montagu, quoted here with approbation, that "America is a land of sects, and each sect is a crumbling congeries of disconnected atoms." This may be a very undesirable state of things, but it is, at all events, the very opposite of that which we should have expected from the vaticinations of the article. There is nothing here of that stern repression of opinion, that iron Jesuitical rule which it sets forth as the necessary result of Voluntaryism. American liberty may have led to excesses, wild vagaries, numerous divisions (although it is fair to remember that Mormonism and others of the worst forms of fanaticism draw some of their most zealous supporters from this country), but at all events it has not set up spiritual tyranny. Our writer is evidently influenced by the fears of the influence which the sacerdotal party might wield in the Episcopal Church if disestablished, and clings to Dean Stanley's idea of the State as representing the laity, and securing for them their due share of power. In insisting on this, he substitutes his own ideal for the true facts of the case, he forgets how largely sacerdotal influence always has predominated in the State Church, he shuts out the evidence which America furnishes in direct contradiction of his theory, and he ignores the fact that Nonconformists have found a more legitimate and efficient way for developing the power of the people, and he reasons on the supposition that in claiming to be free they demand to be exempt from the authority of the law.

The *Westminster Review*, in a very able article, exposes at length most of the fallacies involved in this theory of Church Establishments. It covers, indeed, much wider ground—carefully traces the history of the question; describes and examines the various ideals of a State Church which have found favour in the eyes of different theorists, from the opposing views of Bellarmine and Hobbes to the more refined speculations of the "transcendental" apologues for the Anglican Establishment which have been skilfully wrought out by Hooker and Edmund Burke, by Coleridge and by Gladstone; deals in somewhat brief but very vigorous manner with the arguments advanced in support of these different ideas. But we must confine ourselves to a rapid notice of its criticism on Dean Stanley's reasoning, and on the popular argument of the Broad Church party in favour of maintaining Establishments as a guarantee of liberty and a check to fanaticism. The *Westminster* is not likely to throw its influence on the side of anything tending in the direction of priestly assumption or religious extravagance, but it is not, on the other hand, to be misled by the sophistries of those whose ideas of liberty and comprehension are wonderfully one-sided, and exhibit but little sympathy with any who have pushed their speculations further than they have thought it right to go themselves. The *Edinburgh* Reviewer, who is sublimely unconscious of the inconsistency of his reasonings on the point with other parts of his argument finds in the example of America, a "warning more than a model," which does not satisfy him "that a great people can with impunity make over the interest of national religion to contending sects." In other words, he is afraid of freedom, and would fain restrict it by setting up a national creed. He is unable to understand that this is a violation of the principle of religious equality, inasmuch as it is the non-Established Churches who, either because they do not believe the particular creed, or because they object to the legislature setting up a creed at all, have voluntarily separated themselves from the National Church. It is refreshing to turn from the specious reasoning by which these views are supported to the plain and forcible exhibition of the real facts in the article of the *Westminster*. After exposing the absurdity of the idea that the Anglican Church is "the nearest approach that we can make to the original idea of the Christian Church," and the still more extraordinary notion that it affords a greater opportunity than can be found elsewhere for the full development of religious opinion, the writer adds—

"Most astonishing of all, we learn that from the undogmatic and simple character of its formularies the Church of England is better calculated than any other creed to attract childlike minds to its bosom. Is it impertinent to inquire whether Dean Stanley finds the Athanasian Creed in his Prayer-book? He avows a

* The *Edinburgh Review*, July. The *Westminster Review*, July. The *Quarterly Review*, July.

preference in another place for the Apostles' Creed, which he seems to think a miracle of simplicity. The Apostles' Creed demands assent to eighteen separate dogmas."

To Nonconformists there is nothing new in the following argument on the injustice of the State-Church, but such an utterance from such a quarter is specially valuable at the present time.

"The connection of Church and State produces inequality and injustice. It is unfair on the face of it, that a man should be compelled to pay in any shape for the support of a creed which he believes to be false. The connection tends also to produce inequality in another way, by making the clergy a class with interests separated from those of the nation. It trenches more or less on the common rights of citizenship, the rights of private judgment, of free speech and action. It is an organisation that tends dangerously to increase the central power in the State, and its influence, experience warns us, has nearly always been exercised in a direction opposite to liberal thought and reformation."

In harmony with these views, he gives the following sound advice, which we commend to the earnest attention of those who are standing forth to defend the State-Church in the interests, forsooth, of political and religious liberty.

Neither let those be alarmed at the prospect of the severance of Church and State, who fear and abhor the fanatic zeal of seceders, and love the quiet and kindly repose of Establishment. The revolution must, to be sure, set free at first energies that may be turned to ill account, but it will also give scope to forces of a better sort. The good will balance first, and finally overcome the evil. It is not by adopting a cumbrous and dangerous machine of government that we should endeavour to war down falsehood, bigotry, and superstition. Let us trust to the might of truth; let us enlist on our side the noble army, never left without recruits, of thinkers and patriots; let us fight under the banners of education, free thought, and liberty, and the battle though it may be long and weary, can have but one issue."

To the article of the *Quarterly* we cannot now devote any space; and we regret it the less because it deals entirely with the case of the Irish Church, and will, therefore, more appropriately receive notice elsewhere.

BRIEF NOTICES.

The *British Quarterly* for July strikes us as being hardly up to the high mark it has commonly reached of late. Its opening article on John Stuart Mill is a somewhat elaborate attempt to vindicate Sir William Hamilton's philosophy against the "misinterpretations and assaults" of the thoughtful and accomplished member for Westminster. It is worthy of careful perusal; but those who read it carefully will admit, we think, that the writer, notably in his opening criticisms on Mill's tractate on "Liberty," is guilty of more misapprehensions of Mill's meaning than Mill is of Hamilton's. Some of these misapprehensions look a little wilful too; they could hardly have occurred to any one but a partisan. Among the other articles are an ingenious paper on the literary pedigree of Britomart, the heroine of the third book of Spenser's "Faerie Queen," whom the writer traces through Ariosto's "Bradamante" and Tasso's "Clorinda" to the "Camilla" of Virgil; essays on the "Old London Dissenters" and Stanley's "Historical Memorials of Westminster Abbey"; on the more modern phases of Geology, with a special reference to the earlier traces of animal life; and on Count de Montalembert's "Monks of the West," fossils which speak of the more primitive forms of a higher life; a very good brief sketch of John Bright and his political achievements; and another sketch, equally good, of the present political situation. Nearly fifty books receive able and discriminating notice, which errs only in leaning too uniformly to mercy's side, under the heading "Contemporary Literature." So that there is something for all tastes, even if no one of them be quenched with a deep, full, satisfying draught.

The History and Pleasant Chronicle of Little Jehan de Saintré. Translated from the French by ALEXANDER VANCE. (Moffatt and Co., Dublin.) The introduction to this book is dated 1862, and we would fain hope that the work itself has been six years looking for its public. It is scarcely likely to find it in this age. The translator, who really should adopt some intelligible method of punctuation, holds the opinion and boldly expresses it, that the indelicacy of mediæval literature is greatly exaggerated. He says—and we will follow his own punctuation—"That a number of the songs, 'the tales of the troubadours, are coarse enough, to our ears, I will not attempt to palliate or deny; but 'if so; they are rather tintured with the coarseness of 'a redeeming, an enviable, a charming, and a primitive 'simplicity, than with the objectionableness of a 'deliberate, a conscious, or even a possible offensive-ness.' There is no 'charm' and no 'primitive 'simplicity' to our taste in this 'pleasant chronicle,' albeit the moral itself is sufficiently wholesome."

The Book of the Knight of the Tower, Landry. Translated from the French. By ALEXANDER VANCE. (Moffatt and Co., Dublin.) This is another piece of Mr. Vance's handiwork, 1862. It is a series of chapters, some of them unfit for publication, in which a father endeavours to point out to his daughters "the contempt that is the meed of wicked and unseemly women, so as to serve as a warning, of all the mischief

"which may befall those who are reflected on, blamed, 'or defamed.'" This may have been an excellent course of tuition in France four or five centuries ago, but we hold it to be neither wise nor necessary to initiate the youth of this generation into the ways of wickedness which other people have followed or may yet follow, for the purpose of incalculating truth and morality.

Enquire within upon Everything, to which is added, "Enquire within upon Fancy Needlework." (Houlston and Wright.) We cannot do better in noticing a work of this character, than quote Messrs. Houlston and Wright's circular, which states that the new edition of "Enquire within upon Everything," has been enlarged by thirty-two pages, specially for the use of ladies. The work has reached a circulation of upwards of 360,000 copies, and there has been an increase in the demand to the extent of nearly 10,000 copies yearly. It is a most invaluable book.

Time will Tell. By N. J. N., Author of "Mark Fleming." (Moffatt and Co., Dublin.) This is a temperance story in one volume of 345 pages. It is full of interest and well told. The hero, Sydney Martin, has great strength and true nobility of character. He wins the hearts of the peasantry by his handsome bearing and noble deeds; and his moral influence—which is, after a long inward struggle, exerted on the side of total abstinence—united with repressive measures, (for he is a magistrate) transform the noisy town of Thisleton into an abode of peace and contentment. It is just the book for a village book club, and will be read with interest by any one who is not too much prejudiced by previous conviction to give it a fair hearing. It must be said that the author is rather prodigal of illustrations of the evil effects of whisky drinking.

Chats by the Sea. By MARIANNE FARNINGHAM. (James Clarke and Co.) Some who read these lines may perchance be contemplating a trip to the sea side. If they are, and if they have children to take with them, we fancy they will find this little book a capital companion. It tells in a conversational form, about the different kinds of fish, birds, sea plants, &c., which are to be seen on the coast, and children will find a delight in trying to identify the descriptions with living specimens, even if they do not in all cases succeed.

Crimes and Casualties.

A fire caused by the heat of the sun was reported to have taken place on Friday on the premises of a silk-merchant in Bow-lane. It was quickly extinguished, and no great damage was done. Another fire from the same cause is said to have taken place in Whitechapel. A very destructive fire, occasioned, according to Captain Shaw's report, by the heat of the sun, has occurred at Tottenham. It took place in the premises of Messrs. Warne and Co., india-rubber manufacturers. The rays of the sun fell upon the roof of a building 125 feet long and 60 feet wide filled with goods valued at a considerable sum, and some of the articles taking fire, the flames spread so rapidly that in less than a quarter of an hour the building, which was composed principally of timber, was enveloped in them. The fire was not extinguished until the building and its contents were destroyed.

A few evenings since eight boys, between the ages of nine and twelve, living in the village of Prestatyn, near Rhyl, went to bathe in the sea about a quarter of a mile from the village. In less than an hour after their departure two of the bigger lads ran home in terror to the village to tell the sad tale that some of their comrades were drowned. The tale was too true. Six of the eight lads were dead. The bodies of three were recovered almost immediately; the remaining three bodies were recovered next morning. Five out of the six were choristers in the village church, and had, as they thought, just time enough to bathe before going to the usual weekly singing practice.

A sad boating accident occurred at Battersea on Sunday afternoon. A young couple who had been married at Camberwell Church in the morning went after dinner with some friends to Battersea, and four of the party went on the river in a pleasure-boat. On crossing near some barges moored off Battersea Church, the boat, it seems, came in contact with the craft and went under them. The young married couple and the bride's sister disappeared almost immediately and were drowned. The fourth member of the party, a young man named Thomson, after passing under the barges, contrived to cling to the boat, and was picked up.

On Saturday an inquest was held at Notting-hill, on the body of a lady who died through swallowing a strong, in mistake for a weak, solution of strychnine. Her medical adviser having directed that five drops of the more potent liquid should be diluted with water and taken at meal times, the lady proceeded to mix the draught, placing the dose in a bottle, which apparently had previously held similar medicine, for it was identical in form with that containing the poisonous quantity of strychnine. Subsequently mistaking the bottles, she drank the wrong fluid, and died in half an hour.

In the borough of Southwark there exist several formidable gangs of juvenile thieves, who have succeeded in plundering a large number of respectable persons of their watches and purses. One of them is called the "Kent-street Forty Thieves," and is said to be more highly organised than any known in the recent annals of London crime. These daring robberies have, in most instances, been perpetrated with perfect impunity. The most active member of the

gang snatches the watch and runs away. If the person who has been robbed gives pursuit, he is surrounded by the confederates, tripped up, and often severely beaten. The most curious circumstances connected with these audacious crimes are, that they are committed in important thoroughfares, at an hour when they are still crowded, and that the property is very seldom recovered. The police, however, succeeded in getting hold of the chief criminal, the captain of the "Forty," and he has been committed for trial on three distinct charges of highway robbery.

A negro calling himself "The African Blondin," was walking upon a rope fifty feet high, at Beverley, on Wednesday evening, when the rope suddenly broke, and the hapless fellow fell with terrible force to the ground. One of his arms was broken in two places, and he lies in a very precarious state. It is surely time to put a stop to these disgraceful exhibitions.

A shocking tale of intemperance was told before the coroner at Mile-end on Friday, by a woman named Albrecht, whose child had been found smothered in bed. She and her husband—a master baker—appear to have lived a wretched life in consequence of her drunken habits. They quarrelled and fought a few days ago, and she left the house and got drunk, according to her usual practice. On her return she was not admitted to the house, and sat on the doorstep the greater part of the night. She was let in in the morning—still drunk—and put the child to bed so carelessly that when she came to her senses she found it dead. The jury found that the child had been overlain, and strongly censured the wretched woman.

Miscellaneous News.

ENDOWED SCHOOLS OF THE METROPOLIS.—The recent Schools Inquiry Commission ascertained that the net income of the trusts for educational purposes in the metropolitan district, including 42,000*l.*, the endowment of Christ's Hospital, exceeds 100,000*l.* a year.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—The overseers of the township of Considine and Knitaley, West Durham, having resolved to put on the Parliamentary register all women possessing the necessary qualifications, have prepared their list in conformity to such resolution. The overseers of Marsden, in Lancashire, have agreed to place duly qualified women on the list of voters.

MR. GLADSTONE AGAIN BURNT IN EFFIGY.—The *Northern Whig* states that on Sunday evening last the Orangemen of Coatesland, Killyman, Stoughan, and Newmills, assembled near the last-named place for the purpose of burning Mr. Gladstone in effigy. The effigy of the right hon. gentleman was first placed on a low wall by these enlightened politicians and shot at, after which it was consigned to the flames amidst general groaning.

A SEIZURE OF ARMS IN COBK on Monday morning reads very much as though the chief actors in the affair were Fenians. Six armed men entered the shop of Mr. Merton, a gunmaker, and one of them "took charge of the shopman," while the others collected seventeen fowling pieces and one rifle, and the whole company then walked quietly away. The shopman was so stupefied that he was unable to raise an alarm. The robbers, of course, have not yet been traced.

THE GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.—On Saturday last Mr. and Mrs. Reed and Mr. John Parry gave their last morning performance of "Our Quiet Chateau" and "A Public Dinner." This evening a new entertainment will be produced by the same artistes, entitled, "Enquire Within," written by Mr. F. C. Burnand, with scenery by John O'Connor, and music by Mr. German Reed. Mr. Reed's entertainments have now become a most important institution, especially to that class of persons who are not much in the habit of frequenting theatres, and from what we have witnessed of them we have every confidence that "Enquire Within" will possess medicinal properties for the dyspeptic equal to those of its predecessors.

COURT OF ARBITRATION.—Mr. Rupert Kettle, judge of the County Courts of Worcestershire, who has organised a system of courts of arbitration at Wolverhampton and Coventry, attended on Friday at Leeds as arbitrator in a dispute which had arisen between the master carpenters and joiners and their workmen respecting the rate of wages and the hours of labour. The views of both parties were placed before the arbitrator, and the result was that the men are to receive an advance of 3*d.* per hour in their wages, but that the demand for the reduction of the hours of labour was abandoned. It was agreed to appoint a court of arbitration to settle disputes that may arise during the next two years, and Mr. Jowitt was selected as the gentleman who is to be invited to act as umpire, should any dispute arise rendering his advice necessary.—*Leeds Mercury.*

THE NEXT REGISTRATION.—The new Act to amend the law on registration so far as relates to the year 1868, and other matters relating to elections, has just been issued. It contains thirty-seven clauses. There may be 132 revising barristers appointed. In the event of the power arising to appoint additional revising barristers under the 6th and 7th of Victoria, cap. 18, designed "The Principal Act," occurring after the 5th of September, it may be exercised by a Judge at Chambers on the like representation being made to him as would justify an appointment under that Act. The revision is to be made between the 14th of September and the 8th of October, and seven days' notice of a court of revision is to be given. As to the new Parliament it is provided:—"If the next

dissolution of Parliament takes place in the year 1868 the time to be appointed for the first meeting of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland after such dissolution may be at any time not less than twenty-eight days after the date of such proclamation, any Act, law, or usage to the contrary notwithstanding." By the provision in the new Reform Act it is enacted that the person on whom the right to vote in respect of the occupation of lodgings is conferred shall in the lists and register of voters for boroughs appear in a separate list. Some of the provisions in this Act are of a declaratory nature for the next revision and election.

THEODORA'S SON.—Lord Napier of Magdala and the little son of the late King Theodore were received on Thursday evening by her Majesty at Osborne. Lord Napier left the palace on Friday morning, and Alamayou, after a second visit to the Queen, left in the afternoon with Captain Speedy, to whose care he has been consigned. A correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, who has had an interview with Captain Speedy and his protégé—the Prince Alamayou, sends us the following:—"Dejatch Alamayou is tall for his age, but touchingly childlike in manner. He is altogether a very interesting child. Captain Speedy speaks of him as an affectionate, gentle, and manageable boy. During the journey he showed much anxiety to see the Queen. Captain Speedy said the little Prince could write, and read fluently in his own language, which consists of 261 letters, and has no vowels. The little fellow also speaks a few words of English. He sleeps with Captain Speedy, and is much distressed if parted from the captain for ever so short a time. When the Queen of Abyssinia was dying Captain Speedy was asked to take charge of the child, but he had to take a solemn oath to the dying mother before he was entrusted with her son. The Queen said to him, 'Have you a mother?' The answer was 'Yes.' 'Then,' remarked the Queen, 'swear, 'May God cause my mother to die a bitter death if I do not act towards this child as my own son.' Captain Speedy swore he would do so to the best of his ability, and the Queen was satisfied."

A BURNING MOUNTAIN IN WALES.—A magnificent spectacle—a mountain on fire—has been visible from Wrexham and neighbourhood every night for the past week. The scene of the conflagration is Vrondeg, where a spur of the Eglwyseg mountain abuts on the village of Rhoallanerchruog. During the darkness of the night the flames, rising to the height of several yards, illuminate the horizon, and are visible for miles. A number of men are engaged night and day in beating back the flames and endeavouring to prevent the further spread of the fire, an extremely difficult task on account of the dryness of the turf, and almost total absence, at present, of water in the neighbourhood. The fire commenced on the 6th inst., and swept with immense rapidity, unhousing grouse, moorfowl, and great quantities of game, and causing sheep to scatter in haste. It now extends over a surface embraced in a circumference of about nine miles. No great amount of farm property has, as yet, been destroyed, although one house had a narrow escape. The spread of the fire at first was so rapid that the inhabitants had not time to make any provision against its advances ere their house was encircled by flames. A turf house and stable were burned to the ground; but fortunately the main buildings escaped. It is said that the turf is burned, and the fire maintained in the earth to the depth of three or four feet. A reward of £20 has been offered for the discovery of the origin of the fire, and the police are in the possession of a clue to the offenders.—*Manchester Examiner*.

THE TORY MANAGER.—Mr. Spofforth, the Tory manager of elections, has thought it necessary to issue a circular to the managers of the party in the country in reference to local organisations. The fact is not insignificant. The new constituencies probably do not promise to be quite so amenable to Disraelian charming as it was expected they would be, and hence the necessity for very earnest action on the part of the Premier's supporters. The issuing of the circular would seem to indicate that the earlier attempts at organisation in the shape of Working Men's Constitutional Associations have not been successful; or probably the prospect of the Bribery Bill becoming law this session may have something to do with the apparent throwing over of these bodies. It is highly probable that a judge called upon to decide the question might say that meetings at which electors, in view of an election, were treated wholesale to beer and tobacco, was an infringement of the law, and thus not only might an election be declared void, but a prominent Tory—if he had been to these Constitutional meetings—might be disqualified for sitting in Parliament for seven years. It is rather hard on Constitutionalists that the House of Commons should have insisted on the Bribery Bill. Mr. Disraeli, if we mistake not, was the inventor of these associations, and he was the inventor of the name by which they call themselves; and it must be painful to him to have to preside, as Premier passing a Government bill, over their prompt extinction.—*Scotsman*.

SOUTH LONDON TEMPERANCE EXCURSION TO RAMSGATE.—On Tuesday morning, July 14th, the neighbourhood of Blackfriars station was made all alive by the crowds of persons flocking to the annual excursion of the Surrey Chapel and Borough-road Congregational Church Temperance Societies. The party was headed by the pastors, the Revs. Newman Hall and G. M. Murphy, and left the station at 8.45, arriving at Ramsgate at 12.30. The day was remarkably fine, and, judging from appearances, a most enjoyable one to all present. The Rev. Newman Hall preached to a crowded congregation in St.

George's Hall at half-past two. At four o'clock an open-air demonstration was held on the sands, presided over by the Rev. G. M. Murphy; and at half-past five St. George's Hall was again crowded by an enthusiastic audience, the Rev. W. A. Essery in the chair. At the meeting the following resolution was carried by acclamation:—"That this meeting of holiday-makers and inhabitants of Ramsgate cordially approves of the discontinuance of the regular Sunday excursion trains by the London, Chatham, and Dover and South-Eastern Railways, regarding such an infraction of the day of rest as is caused by such excursions as injurious alike to the physical and moral stamina of those who take part in them, and especially to the railway employees, whose energies are already overtaxed by the exigencies of their week-day duties. That this meeting is further of opinion that the true demand of the people, and of the age, is for less Sunday labour and more week-day holidays, and thoroughly endorses this sentiment." The train left for town amid the hearty farewells of a great crowd at half-past seven, arriving at its destination shortly after ten.

TEETOTALLERS AND THE GENERAL ELECTION.—The *Norfolk News* says:—"The friends of temperance must not at this critical moment, when one great issue is pending, raise a question, as they are doing in some places, which may divide and distract our forces. And the publicans in the Liberal interest must waive their counter demonstrations and their counter protests. We have to do now with the question of Mr. Gladstone and the Irish Establishment, and nothing else. So let 'water' and 'beer' postpone their contentions for the present. 'One thing at a time, gentlemen.' The next Parliament is not likely to have much time to spare for any other question. We have been induced to make these remarks by what we have just heard from Lynn. We learn that many sturdy working men in the teetotal interest are disposed not to vote for Sir F. Buxton because he is a brewer. Surely this is unreasonable. Buxton is a name most highly distinguished. The noblest pages of British history contain the name again and again repeated. To refuse honour to the consistent bearer of this noble name would be shameful ingratitude. We know that principles are more than names, but 'Buxton' stands associated with scores of great principles which by that name have been upheld and defended for generations. Were the beer question 'up' at this moment, and to be settled at once and for ever, it might be a question whether teetotalers could support a brewer—unless, indeed, his beer was so small as not to intoxicate! But 'one thing at a time, gentlemen.' It is the question of Mr. Gladstone and the Irish Church Establishment—of him and that, and of nobody and nothing else just now." "W. J. B." writes to us:—"Teetotalers are not all visionaries. At a select meeting of some of the chief supporters of the present members for the borough of Finsbury, recently held, for the purpose of promoting their re-election to Parliament, there were five of us present who have been abstainers for periods varying from twenty-six to thirty-two years, active promoters of the temperance movement, second to none as supporters of Mr. Torrens and Mr. Alderman Lusk, who have never once asked those gentlemen to support the Permissive Bill, and who are not so unreasonable as to expect them to vote for anything so inopportune as the Permissive Bill question certainly is at the present time."

Gleanings.

Mr. Seeley, M.P., has, it is said, given 270,000*l.* for 300 acres of coal-field adjoining his colliery in Derbyshire.

Large numbers of salmon have, according to the *Carlisle Journal*, been killed by sunstroke in shallow water.

The footway of the Northern Thames Embankment will be formally thrown open to the public on the 30th inst.

One of the items of news from China is that the chief mandarins have prohibited the native women wearing chignons, those badges of Western manners.

The *Times* Melbourne correspondent reports that "you may buy a whole sheep now for a penny a pound in Bourke-street, Melbourne."

Mr. Justice Byles has sentenced a discharged railway-guard named Jenkins, who made an attempt to upset a railway train at Kidderminster on the 13th of April last, to penal servitude for life.

Cheltenham is the paradise for retired Anglo-Indians. It is not an uncommon thing for all present at large dinner parties there to converse together in the Hindostanee language.

Two inquests were held in London on Saturday in cases of death by sunstroke. One was that of a man of forty, named Archer, and the other a little boy of four, named Frederick Walter.

ST. SWITHIN'S DAY.—On St. Swithin's day (Wednesday) a building by the side of Winchester Cathedral, where St. Swithin lies buried, was struck by lightning, and in some parts of the neighbourhood of Winchester much rain fell.

The *Athenæum* states that the verses on Long-fellow which we recently copied from the *Times*, with the signature "C. K.," are not by Mr. Charles Kingsley, as most persons fancied, but by Mr. Charles Kent.

POETRY.—An American paper gives the following reasons for not publishing a poetic effusion:—"The rhythm sounds like pumpkins rolling over a barn-floor, while some lines appear to have been measured with a yard stick, and others with a ten-foot pole."

The *London Review* calls for some check on the late hours which prevail in fashionable society. u ld

not Sir Richard Mayne issue a proclamation to the effect that all people who give dances must close their establishments at one or two o'clock?

The *South London Press* says that the rector of St. John's, Southwark, is preparing a scheme to throw open the present churchyards in the parish for the recreation and use of the parishioners. The reverend gentleman thinks it a fitting place where "poor old people may smoke their pipes."

A second sale of dogs captured by the police took place on Saturday at Cremorne. There were sixty-eight lots put up for sale, some of which were valuable. The prices were very low, the sale altogether realising about 20*l.*, which goes to the home for lost and starving dogs at Holloway.

"SHE NEVER 'TOLLED' HER LOVE."—A toll-gate keeper was brought before a magistrate for cruelty to his daughter. The little difficulty arose from a discovery made by the parent that the girl, who was frequently left in charge of the gate, used to allow her sweetheart, a young butcher, to drive his cart through free.

Another instance is reported of an extraordinary verdict delivered by a Welsh jury. In a case of uttering a forged note, tried before Mr. James Smith, at Cardigan, the jury returned this special verdict: "We find the prisoner guilty of telling stories about the note, and we think that he ought to pay the money back, and have three months' time for it."

What is the origin of the word "sterling," as applied to money? Camden tells us that it was so applied in the reign of Richard I. to money coined in the eastern parts of Germany, of greater purity than our English coinage, and therefore called "Easterling," from which the abbreviation into "sterling" is obvious and natural.

A DILEMMA.—While a country parson was preaching, the chief of his parishioners, sitting near the pulpit, was fast asleep, whereupon he said, "Now, beloved friends, I am in a great strait; for if I speak softly those at the farther end of the church cannot hear me, and if I talk too loud I shall wake the chief man in the parish."

MATERNAL ADVICE.—An anxious mother in Scotland, taking leave of her son on his departure for England, gave him this advice: "My dear Sandy, my aim bairn, gang south, and get a' the silver ye can from the southerners—tak' everything ye can. But the English are a brave, boxin' people, an' tak care o' them, Sandy. Never fight a bald man, for ye canna catch him by the hair."

THE PROFITS OF BEGGARS.—At the Liverpool Coroner's Court, on Wednesday, an inquest was held upon the body of a man who, in consequence of being blind, had for a number of years enjoyed a handsome voluntary income. It appears that on Monday night he drank several pints of beer, and had three or four glasses of rum. On Tuesday morning the blind man was found dead. It appears that the deceased beggar lived most luxuriously, and enjoyed a far better table than men who had to work.

A waggish journalist, who is often merry over his personal plainness, tells this story of himself: "I went to a chemist the other day for a dose of morphine for a sick friend. The assistant objected to give it to me without a prescription, evidently fearing that I intended suicide. 'Pshaw,' said I, 'do I look like a man who would kill himself?' Gazing steadily at me a moment, he replied, 'I don't know. It seems to me, if I looked like you, I should be greatly tempted to kill myself.'"

INTENDED SURGICAL OPERATION ON THE SIAMESE TWINS.—The *New York Tribune* states that the Siamese Twins are about to visit Paris, for the purpose of undergoing the surgical operation, the success or failure of which has caused so much curiosity in the medical world. The reason for their determination at this late day to call in the art of surgery to produce an entire physical separation is, that, having reached such an advanced age—fifty-nine years—they are fearful that one may become the subject of disease which may prove fatal to both.

NEW DRESS MATERIAL.—A new dress material has been recently produced, which may take the place of the long popular winceys. In winceys the materials used are cotton warp and woollen weft, and they differ from lineseys in the substitution of cotton for flax. The new fabric has a woollen warp with a silk weft, or, sometimes, alternate threads of cotton and wool in the warp, and all silk in the weft. The dresses will be handsome and economical, and will be produced in all varieties of colour. In appearance they will be much like Irish poplin.—*John Bull*.

GETTING OUT OF A DIFFICULTY.—Two American preachers were on the same platform. One of them, who was preaching, happened to say, "When Abraham built the ark—" The other, who was behind, ventured to correct his blunder, by saying, "Abraham wasn't there." But the speaker pushed on, and only took occasion shortly to repeat still more decidedly, "I say, when Abraham built the ark—" "And I say," cried the other, "Abraham war'n't there." The preacher was not to be put down in that way; so addressing the people, he exclaimed, with great emphasis, "I say Abraham *was* thar, or tharabouts."—*Macmillan's Magazine*.

A COOL SUGGESTION.—A correspondent of the *Daily News* draws attention to a simple method, by means of which the pathways and shops having awnings or sun blinds extending over the pavement may be rendered cool and pleasant. If the blinds are occasionally wetted by a light jet of water when the sun is upon them, it will be found that the thermometer will indicate from 8 to 12 less degrees of heat beneath the under surface. It is a well-known experiment, and worthy of being repeated; if a thoroughly wetted blanket be put over a basket in the sun, butter and such like commodities are rendered cool and hard.

STORY OF A HIGH LATITUDE.—In a debate in the House of Representatives at Washington on the 1st inst., on the bill appropriating 7,000,000 dols. for the purchase of Alaska, Mr. Stevens (of Pennsylvania), arguing that the acquisition would prove very valuable, maintained that the wealth of the waters is almost incredible. He stated that a few years since two schooners passing into Behring Straits found the herrings packed one upon the other, from the bottom of the ocean to the top, so firmly that no one of them could move. One of the captains attempted to run them down, and ran his vessel upon them and broke its back. Some members laughed, but Mr. Stevens assured the House that last year he saw one of the captains, and learnt that this was an actual fact.

SCOTCH MINISTERS AND WINNOWER MACHINES.—The introduction of the winnowing machine into East Lothian excited the ire of both cleric and lay Calvinists in that district. They could not see that such a thing was predestined, and the raising of artificial wind for the private use and profit of godless farmers was a sinful process worthy of reprobation. It was God's and not man's province to provide this article, and man could only furnish himself with it out of the devil's workshop. Accordingly, one minister refused the sacrament to a man who made use of this invention of Satan for the produce of artificial wind. But such ministers did not scruple to direct the Lord as to what quality of wind Scottish circumstances required. Thus, a Kirk minister, Mitchell, of Lamington, in a prayer or command to the Lord, in approaching harvest time, exclaimed, "O Lord, gie us name o' your rantin' tantin', tearin' winds, but a thunderin', dunnerin', dryin' wind!"

—*Saints and Sinners, by Dr. Doran.*

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—THE BEST FRIENDS.—When bad health overtakes mankind, what would not be given to be free from it? Holloway presents to all invalids the means of recovering their health and renewing failing strength for a mere trifle. His Pills invariably produce the most satisfactory results where the digestion, circulation, or nerves are at fault. The Pills purify the blood, balance its circulation, strengthen the stomach, induce healthy action in the liver, and overcome all painful affections of the intestines, upon which they gently, but effectually operate as aperients. Invalids of the most alarming character, which have withstood all other treatment, have gradually yielded to a course of Holloway's Pills, which will ever prove the invalid's safest friend.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

BRUCE.—July 9, at Highfield Parsonage, Huddersfield, the wife of the Rev. Robert Bruce, M.A., of a daughter.

JOHNSON.—July 13, at Elm Cottage, Forest-hill, the wife of the Rev. E. Johnson, B.A., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

AMERY-DARBY.—July 9, at Bower Hinton Congregational chapel, by the Rev. J. Perry, of Oakhill, Eli Amery, of Seavington St. Michael, to Elizabeth Hebditch, eldest daughter of W. Darby, Esq., of Stoke sub-Hamdon, Somerset.

COTTE-ANDREWS.—July 10, at Alton, Hampshire, the Rev. H. Cottle, of Westbury-on-Severn, Gloucestershire, to Susanna Palmer Andrews, of West-end, Alton.

JONES-READER.—July 11, at the Congregational chapel, Bowdon, by the Rev. R. Cheney, Mr. Rees Jones, of Manchester, to Louisa Matilda Mary, youngest daughter of the late Mr. James Reader, of Timperley.

LAWTON-POGSON.—July 11, at Wesley Chapel, Leeds, by the Rev. G. Conyers, Joseph, son of Mr. Matthew Lawton, of Barnbow, to Susan, youngest daughter of Mr. George Pogson, of Horncliffe, near Hull.

KNOWLES-BROWN.—July 11, at Stion Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. J. F. Chown, Mr. James Knowles, of Horton, to Miss Ellen Brown, of Bradford.

PINDER-SYKES.—July 11, at Harrison-road Chapel, Halifax, by the Rev. J. C. Gray, Mr. Thomas Pinder, to Miss Mary Jane Sykes, both of Halifax.

ROBSON-KITTO.—July 11, at Eastbrook Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. H. Pollinger, Mr. William Henry Robson, of Manningham, to Miss Elizabeth Ann Kitto, of Bradford.

JEBSON-SANDERSON.—July 13, at Great Thornton-street Chapel, Hull, by the Rev. N. Williams, Mr. J. O. Jebson, editor of the *Grimby Herald*, to Margaret Annie, fourth daughter of William Sanderson, Esq., Hull.

PILKINGTON-CARR.—July 14, at the Baptist chapel, Barnsley, by the Rev. J. Compston, Mr. Thomas Pilkington, manager of the Co-operative Store, to Emma, daughter of Mr. John Carr, tinner, of Barnsley.

SCRUBY-HINE.—July 15, at the Congregational church, Epping, by the Rev. J. Teesdale Davis, uncle of the bride, James Thomas Scruby, of Ashford, eldest son of James Scruby, of Epping, to Agnes Elizabeth, eldest daughter of George Hine, of the Bury, Epping.

SHEARER-CAMPBELL.—July 15, at the Congregational church, Upper Norwood, by the father of the bride, assisted by the Rev. Professor Shearer, brother of the bridegroom, Donald F. C. Shearer, Esq., Thurso, Caithness, to Anne Matilda, daughter of the Rev. W. Campbell, M.A., South Fease Park.

HODGKINSON-MANSENGH.—July 15, at the Congregational chapel, Southport, by the Rev. J. Calvert, brother of the bride, Mr. George N. Hodgkinson, of Heywood, to Anne, third daughter of Mr. J. B. Mansengh, Styne Grange, near Lancaster.

SOWDEN-WALKER.—July 15, at the Friends' Meeting-house, Skipton, Joseph Sowden, of Yealand, to Annie Walker, of Low-green, Rawden.

NEILD-KENDAL.—July 15, at the Congregational church, Cheshire, near Manchester, by the Rev. G. R. Milne, uncle of the bride, Edward, second son of the late Mr. Isaac Neild, to Fanny, eldest daughter of Thomas Kendal, Esq., Heath Bank, Cheshire.

OTLEY-WOOLLEN.—July 15, at the Upper Chapel, Norfolk-street, Sheffield, by the Rev. J. L. Short, Mr. T. S. Otley, second son of Mr. T. Otley, Meadow Works, to Annie Maria, second daughter of Mr. C. Woollen, all of Sheffield.

ANDREWS-PIKE.—July 15, at New College Chapel, St. John's-wood, Mr. William Henry Andrews, of Southampton, to Martha Elizabeth, second daughter of Mr. T. J. Pike, of St. John's-wood.

GAY-SMITH.—July 15, at Albion-street Chapel, Hull, by the Rev. R. A. Redford, Mr. John Gay, Spring Bank, to Sarah Elizabeth, only daughter of E. B. Smith, Esq., H.M.'s Customs, all of Hull.

HIRST-KNOWLES.—July 15, at Grove Chapel, Gomersal, by the Rev. J. A. Savage, Mr. Mark Hirst, manufacturer, Dewsbury, to Mary Ann, second daughter of William Knowles, Esq., Gomersal.

BARRETT-BOWEN.—July 16, at the Lisard Congregational church, by the Rev. A. McLaren, B.A., of Manchester, the Rev. G. S. Barrett, B.A., of Norwich, to Catherine Lance, eldest daughter of Alfred Bowen, Esq., New Brighton, Cheshire.

DEATHS.

MUMMERY.—July 12, at Dover, Elizabeth Eastes, widow of the late Mr. Thomas Mummery, in her eightieth year.

WALKER.—July 13, at the Manor House, East Acton, suddenly, Ann Walker, widow of the late William Walker, Esq., in the eighty-eighth year of her age.

URWICK.—July 16, at his residence, Rathmines, Dublin, the Rev. William Urwick, D.D., in his seventy-seventh year.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32 for the week ending Wednesday, July 15.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£35,966,000	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	3,984,909
		Gold Coin & Bullion	20,968,000
	£35,966,000		£35,968,000

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities (inc. dead weight annuity)	£14,614,391
Reserve	3,279,516	Other Securities	16,904,438
Public Deposits	3,359,776	Notes	11,089,640
Other Deposits	22,080,000	Gold & Silver Coin	1,220,535
Seven Day and other Bills	556,663		
	£43,828,995		£43,828,995

July 16, 1868. FRANK MAY, Deputy-Chief Cashier.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, July 20.

The weather continues most brilliant, and harvest is becoming general around this neighbourhood. Several samples of new wheat were shown to-day, the average quality being "fine." The supply of English wheat to market was small; the demand proved slow, and buyers were careless about operating, at even the reduced rates of this day week. Foreign in little demand, and quotations show a decline of 1s. to 2s. per quarter from Monday last. Barley firm. Beans and peas steady. The arrival of oats for the week is very large, making an average of 100,000 quarters for three weeks in succession. This has slightly affected the value for the moment, but at about 6d. per quarter decline on previous rates buyers had operated freely.

CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per Qr.	Per Qr.	PEAS—	Per Qr.	Per Qr.
Essex and Kent, red, old	64 to 67		Grey	43 to 45	
Ditto new	—		Maple	45 to 48	
White, old	65 to 68		White	43 to 47	
" new	—		Boilers	43 to 47	
Foreign red	63 to 65		Foreign, white	44 to 46	
" white	64 to 69				
BARLEY—			RYE	40 to 42	
English malting	37 to 35		OATS—		
Chevalier	34 to 35		English feed	28 to 33	
Distilling	36 to 40		" potatoes	30 to 35	
Foreign	35 to 40		Scotch feed	—	
MALT—			" potatoes	—	
Pale	—		Irish black	23 to 26	
Chevalier	—		" white	23 to 26	
Brown	54 to 68		Foreign feed	23 to 28	
BEANS—			FLOUR—		
_ticks	41 to 46		Town made	56 to 60	
Harrow	45 to 48		Country Marks	48 to 49	
Small	—		Norfolk & Suffolk	45 to 46	
Egyptian	44 to 45				

BREAD.—LONDON, Saturday, July 18.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 9d. to 10d.; household ditto, 7d. to 8d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET.

LONDON, Monday, July 20.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 10,784 head. At the corresponding period in 1867 we received 8,894; in 1866, 17,024; in 1865, 20,558; in 1864, 16,337; and in 1863, 11,388 head. The numbers of foreign stock brought forward here to-day, were by no means numerous. Nevertheless, sales progressed heavily at drooping prices. As many graziers are still compelled to send away their stock, owing to the scarcity of food in the pastures, the supply of beasts on offer this morning was extensive, and in but middling condition. Nearly all breeds met a slow inquiry, at a decline in the quotations, compared with Monday last at 2d. per 8 lbs. A few prime animals realized 4s. 10d., but the general top quotations were 4s. 6d. to 4s. 8d. per 8 lbs. From Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire we received about 2,300 shorthorns, from other parts of England, 700 various breeds, and from Scotland, 20 Scots and crosses. We are again heavily supplied with sheep, for the most part in fair condition. Prime Downs and half-breeds were in steady request at full prices, viz, from 4s. 8d. to 4s. 10d. per 8 lbs. All other breeds were very inactive, and the quotations had a drooping tendency. The sale for lambs was heavy at last week's currency. Prices ranged from 5s. to 6s. per 8 lbs. There were very few really prime lambs in the market. Calves changed hands slowly, and prices were with difficulty supported. The supply was seasonably good. We have to report a very dull sale for pigs. Prices therefore were almost nominal. The top figure was 4s. 2d. per 8 lbs.

Per 8 lbs. to sink the Offal.

Inf. coarse beasts	s. d. s. d.	Prime Southdown	s. d. s. d.
Second quality	3 4 3 8	Lambs	5 0 6 0
Prime large oxen	3 10 4 4	Lge. coarse calves	3 6 4 4
Prime Scots, &c.	4 6 4 8	Prime small	4 6 4 10
Coarse inf. sheep	3 2 3 8	Large hogs	3 4 3 8
Second quality	3 10 4 2	Neats, porkers	3 10 4 2
Pr. coarse woolled	4 4 4 6		

Suckling calves, 22s. to 26s.; and quarter-old store pigs, 22s. to 26s. each.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, July 20.

Owing to the prevailing hot weather, very little meat was on sale here to-day. The demand, however, was inactive, at the annexed quotations:—

Per 8 lbs. by the carcase.

Inferior beef	s. d. s. d.	Inf. mutton	s. d. s. d.
2 10 to 3 2		3 0 3 4	
Middling ditto	3 4 3 6	Middling ditto	3 6 3 8
Prime large do.	3 8 4 0	Prime ditto	3 10 4 4
Do. small do.	4 2 4 4	Veal	3 4 4 4
Large pork	3 10 3 8	Lamb	4 0 4 8
Small pork	3 10 4 4		

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, July 20.—We have no alterations to notice in our market, which remains in the same quite state reported for some time past. Accounts from the plantations, although somewhat conflicting, are favourable. Rain, however, seems still to be very much wanted in some of the districts, and growers are becoming afraid that a continuance of the present hot weather will seriously damage

the prospects of a large crop; at the same time there is every reason to believe that the yield will prove of good quality. Bavarian reports are very favourable, and the crop will doubtless be large. Bohemia shows a decided improvement, and also the Poperinghe district, the recent rains having helped the plant along wonderfully. Alois is still suffering very severely from drought, and without a speedy supply of rain must produce a short yield. Alsace and the Baden district are not well spoken of. New York advices to the 8th inst. report a dull market. Prospects are good. Mid and East Kent, 3l. 10s. 4l. 15s.; to 5l. 12s.; Weald of Kent, 3l. 10s. 4l. to 4l. 15s.; Sussex, 3l. 10s. 4l. 15s.; Farnham and country, 4l. 4l. 15s.; to 5l. 12s.; Yearlings, 2l. 10s., 2l. 10s., to 3l.; Bavarians, 3l. 10s., 3l. to 3l. 10s.; Belgians, 2l. 14s., 2l. 18s., to 3l. 5s. The import of foreign hops into London last week was confined to 130 pockets from Antwerp.

SEED, Monday, July 20.—Old red foreign cloverseed met a steady demand, and rather more money was paid. White samples were held very high. New French trifolium was 2s. to 3s. per cwt. dearer. New English trefoil was firm, at very full prices. Select new English rapeseed realised nearly former prices, put secondary qualities were 2s. per qr. lower, as the crushers can buy East India qualities under English. There was a fair demand for maize, at full rates. Imports, 4,989 qrs.

PROVISIONS, Monday, July 20.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 2,003 firkins butter, and 2,629 bales bacon; and from foreign ports, 26,490 casks, &c., butter, and 2,671 bales bacon. There was an improved demand for the finest Irish butter early in the week, and fine Clonmel, &c., advanced 4s. to 5s. per cwt.; but the extreme heat of the weather affected consumption, and the market closed very quiet. Foreign, with the exception of finest Normandy, declined. The bacon market ruled very firm without change in prices. Lard improved in demand, and prices advanced 2s. Home—No change.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, July 20.—These markets are fairly supplied with potatoes. There has been a moderate demand at our quotation. The imports into London last week consisted of 73 baskets, 37 bags, 12 sacks, 125 cases, 61 packages from (Boulogne: 44 tons Cherebourg; 24 tons 325 boxes Barleur; and 1 65 baskets English Shaws 6s. to 7s. per cwt., Regents 6s. to 6s. ditto, Jersey 5s. to 6s. ditto, and French 5s. to 6s. ditto.

WOOL, Monday, July 20.—There is a fair consumptive demand for English wool; but the market is overstocked, and holders being free sellers, the quotations continue to give way. In export there is very little doing.

OIL, Monday, July 20.—In lined oil sales have progressed slowly at about previous quotations. Rape has been in limited request, and prices have favoured purchasers. Olive oils have moved off slowly, but coco-nut oil has ruled Turpentine and petroleum have sold quietly.

TALLOW, Monday, July 20.—There is only a limited business doing in our market, yet prices are supported. P.Y.C. on the spot is selling at 43s. 9d. per cwt.

COAL, Monday, July 20.—Market heavy at last day's rates. Wallsend Hettons 18s. 6d., South Hettons 18s., Haswell 18s. 6d., New Belmont 15s. 9d., Original Hartlepool 18s. 6d., Kelloe 16s., Thornton 16s. 6d., Trimdon Thornley 15s. 6d., Hartleys 14s. 6d. Ships fresh arrived, 22; ships left from last day, 2; ships at sea, 55.

Advertisements.

GAZE'S SECOND TOUR to the HOLY LAND, EGYPT, GREECE, and ITALY. The first tour to Palestine, conducted by Mr. Gaze, having been carried out with great success, a SECOND PARTY is in course of formation for OCTOBER.

Any who may be desirous of joining should make early application, as the number is limited to twenty. Prospectus with Maps and Testimonials, 6d., post free, 7d., of Mr. H. Gaze, Excursion Office, Southampton; or Messrs. Lettis, Son, and Co., Royal Exchange, London, where particulars of all Mr. Gaze's Excursions may be obtained.

TO GROCERS' ASSISTANTS.—About 4 years' experience, steady, industrious, and of unexceptionable character. A Congregationalist. Thos. Tanner, Grocer, Bloister, Oxon.

LADIES' SCHOOL, ALBAN HOUSE, ST. ALBANS, HERTS. Postoffice System. Established 30 years. Conducted by Miss Upton, assisted by Governesses and Masters. Terms, 30 and 40 guineas. Prospectuses, with references to Ministers and the Parents of Pupils, forwarded on application.

WANTED AT ONCE, a CHRISTIAN YOUNG MAN, thoroughly trained, as General Assistant in a Middle-Class School. He must be able to take the English and Mathematical Departments, with Drawing, and, if possible, Junior Latin. Apply, stating age, experience, salary expected, &c., to Rev. Walter Gill, Heathfield House, Parkstone, near Poole, Dorset.

WANTED, a RESPECTABLE YOUTH as an APPRENTICE in the General Drapery and Outfitting. The Family, Congregationalist and Total Abstinence. A premium required. Apply to Messrs. G. H. Smith and Son, Worthing.

SEASIDE.—Comfortable BOARD and RESIDENCE, Thirty Shillings per week.—1, Montpelier terrace, Weeton-super-Mare.

NONCONFORMIST GRAMMAR SCHOOL, BISHOP'S STORTFORD.

EAST OF ENGLAND NONCONFORMIST SCHOOL COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD MASTER—REV. R. ALLIOTT, B.A. The distinctive object of this School is to provide a liberal, and at the same time religious education.

The general course includes the Classics, Mathematics, the ordinary studies of an English Education, and French and German.

The School year is divided into Three Terms, commencing in January, May, and September.

Bishop's Stortford lies half way (about thirty miles) between London and Cambridge on the Great Eastern Railway. The situation of the School is healthy; there is a large playground; and the domestic arrangements are very complete.

TERMS:—35 to 45 Guineas per annum, according to age.

There are Three Scholarships.

All applications should be addressed to the Head Master.

THEOBALDS, CHESHUNT (Waltham CROSS, N.)

The Rev. JOHN OSWALD JACKSON begs to announce to the Parents and Friends of Pupils that school duties will recommence on Wednesday, August 5th.

STONEGATE SCHOOL, near LEICESTER.—Mr. FRANKLIN receives Pupils at his long-established School. His boys have the advantage of homelike arrangements and care. The teaching is quite of the first class. Several Pupils each year pass the University local examinations. Reference may be made to the Hon. Justice Mellor, and to numbers of other gentlemen whose sons have been educated by Mr. Franklin. Terms Fifty and Sixty Guineas, according to age on entering.

MILL-HILL SCHOOL, HENDON, N.W., MIDDLESEX.

This School is 10 miles from London, and is now about a mile distant from Mill-hill Station of the Edgware Railway, King's Cross.

The Second Session of this year will commence on Wednesday, the 29th July. Prospectuses, with Reports, may be had from the Head-Master, at the School; or to the Rev. George Smith, D.D., Hon. Sec. Congregational Library.

PREPARATION for PUBLIC SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES, EXAMINATIONS, &c.

GROOMBRIDGE HOUSE, UPPER PARK ROAD, HAVERSTOCK HILL, N.W.

PRINCIPAL—J. MASSIE, Esq., B.A. (Classical Honours), Scholar of St. John's Coll. Camb.

The School opens on the 17th of August. Ages of pupils from 9 upwards.

For terms, &c., apply as above.

CLEVEDON COLLEGE, NORTHAMPTON.

HEAD MASTER, EDWARD RUSH, B.A.;
SECOND MASTER, F. SCHREINER, Esq.

The Course of Study embraces English subjects in general, the Latin, Greek (or German), and French Languages, Pure and Mixed Mathematics, &c. The pupils of the first, the second, and the upper part of the third class are regularly presented as Candidates at the Cambridge Local Examinations; and those whose time and ability will allow are prepared for the Examinations of the London University.

During the last two years sixty-four University Certificates have been obtained by Candidates from this College, thirty-two of which have placed the possessors in the Honours Lists.

TERMS, INCLUSIVE.

N.B.—Three £10 Scholarships and other valuable prizes have been established in connection with the Cambridge Local Examinations.

CAMBRIDGE HOUSE SCHOOL, HAGLEY ROAD, EDGBASTON, near BIRMINGHAM.

Conducted by Mr. FREDERIC EWEN, with the aid of competent Masters, will RE-OPEN on MONDAY, August 3rd.

TUDOR HALL LADIES' COLLEGE, FOREST HILL, SYDENHAM.**PROFESSORS.**

English Literature . . .	Mrs. C. L. BALFOUR.
Botany . . .	Professor BENTLEY.
Globes, and Natural Science .	Rev. JACKSON SMYTH, M.A.
Music, Theory, &c. . .	JOHN BLOCKLEY, Esq.
Harmonium and Piano . .	Herr LOUIS DIEHL.
Singing . . .	JAMES COWARD, Esq.
Drawing and Painting . .	R. W. BUSS, Esq.
Geology and Biblical Studies.	Rev. J. W. TODD.
French Language . . .	Dr. MANDROU.
German Language . . .	Dr. SCHINZEL.

Referees—Parents of Pupils and Clergymen.

For Particulars, address the Principal, Mrs. TODD.

EDUCATION for YOUNG LADIES LANSDOWNE HOUSE, LONDON-ROAD, LEICESTER.

(Situation high and healthy, at the outskirts of the town.) Conducted by the Misses MALL, assisted by Professors, and French and English Resident Governesses.

A thoroughly solid English education, under the immediate superintendence of the Principals; with all the necessary accomplishments—French, German, Latin, Music, Singing, Drawing, &c. Occasional Scientific Lectures from Professors. Special attention given to moral and religious training; and the comforts and advantages of a refined home provided.

References to the parents of the pupils.

HOWARD HOUSE SCHOOL, Thame, near Oxford, has been conducted by Mr. MARSH for upwards of 25 years.

It is a practical commercial school, giving more than ordinary attention to subjects required in business. In 1861 the pupils prepared for the Queen's Penmaker, Joseph Gillott, Esq., of Birmingham, the only specimens of penmanship which were received in the world's Exhibition. During the Exhibition of 1862 the pupils showed the best specimens of bookkeeping, commercial correspondence, and drawing, in the Crystal Palace. This School has been enlarged four times during the above period, and new premises are now being built, consisting of large school room, six class-rooms, bath-room, dining-hall, and dormitories. Mr. Marsh is assisted by six resident masters and two lady assistants. Prospectuses, with full particulars, on application.

SOUTH COAST.—ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG GENTLEMEN, HEATHFIELD HOUSE, PARKSTONE, between Poole and Bournemouth.

This Establishment, conducted by Rev. WALTER GILL, assisted by competent Masters, is designed to be REOPENED on THURSDAY, July 30th.

Terms moderate. Prospectuses on application.

WILTON LODGE, TAUNTON.—Select Establishment for Young Ladies. Conducted by Miss GRIFFITH, daughter of Rev. W. H. Griffith, M.A., Principal of Taunton Proprietary School.

The duties of this Establishment will be resumed on Saturday, Aug. 1.

For Prospectus, address Wilton Lodge, Taunton.

THE NORTHERN CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, SILCOATES HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.

Rev. JAMES BEWGLASS, LL.D., M.R.I.A., PRINCIPAL.

The Business of this School will be RESUMED on the 7th of August.

DISSENTERS' PROPRIETARY SCHOOL, TAUNTON.

PRINCIPAL—Rev. W. H. GRIFFITH, M.A.

The PUPILS will REASSEMBLE on Friday, July 31st.

Prospectuses may be obtained by application to the Principal, or to the Secretary, Rev. J. S. Underwood.

VICTORIA VILLA, FINCHLEY COMMON.

Mrs. WASHINGTON WILKS has VACANCIES for Pupils for the next Term, which will begin on September 20th.

Terms on application.

THE HOSPITAL for SICK CHILDREN

48 and 49, Great Ormond-street, W.C.
Patron—Her Majesty the QUEEN.

This Hospital depends entirely on voluntary support. The 75 Beds are always filled. Out-patients receive advice and medicine free every morning. 500 Children attended on Monday, the 23rd March.

The Committee very earnestly solicit CONTRIBUTIONS.

BANKERS.

Williams, Deacon, and Co.; Messrs. Heare; Messrs. Herries.

F. H. DICKINSON, Chairman.

THE GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Notice is hereby given, that the SIXTIETH Half-Yearly Dividend, at the rate of 6 per cent., declared on the 15th inst., is payable to the Shareholders at the Office of the Company, 62, King William-street, London, E.C., between the hours of 10 and 4.

By order of the Board,

GEORGE SCOTT FREEMAN, Secretary.

July 20th, 1868.

HERCULES INSURANCE COMPANY (LIMITED)

Capital Subscribed and Funds Invested . . . £373,869
Annual Premium Income exceeds . . . £100,000

LONDON OFFICES:

25, CORNHILL, E.C., and 142, STRAND, W.C.

With Branches at Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Plymouth.

Agents are required where the Company is not fully represented.

Applications to be made to

SAMUEL J. SHRUBB, Manager.

WHITTINGTON LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING of this Company was held at its Chief Office, 37, MOORGATE-STREET, E.C., on THURSDAY last, the 16th inst., under the presidency of THOMAS H. HARRIS, Esq., Chairman of the Company. We supply a summary of the Report as read by the Manager, ALFRED T. BOWSER, Esq.

The Report commenced with a reference to the general depression of Trade, which has, for months past, more or less harmfully affected the majority of the various philanthropic and commercial institutions of our land; but proceeded to make the agreeable announcement that the success which has in the year ending the 30th April last, crowned the efforts of the agents and friends of this Company, admits of favourable comparison with that of any previous year. For while in 1865-6 the new business done consisted of 456 policies, and in 1866-7 of 593; the number of new policies issued in 1867-8 amounted to 737. And while in 1865-6 the premium income was £15,001, and in 1866-7, £20,446, in 1867-8 it increased to £25,884. The claims which have arisen in the year were stated to be below the average in number, but above the average in amount, the exact sum being £9,993. It is pleasing to learn that these claims have been met, not only without dispute, but also with honourable promptitude. The Directors, while not unmindful of the commercial side of their undertaking, appear to regard it as possessing another and a nobler aspect; for the report next alluded to a pardonable satisfaction to the vast extent of benefits conferred on the bereaved, necessitous, and dependent by the payment in claims of an amount so eloquent of the practical advantages of Life Assurance. The report concluded with an opportune reminder of a truth often lost sight of, viz., that a Life Policy has, even for the assured himself, an important and appreciable present value as a means of freeing him from temporary embarrassment by loans or otherwise—a value which has been enhanced by a recent Act of Parliament, making policies legally assignable by a simple endorsement on the policy itself.

The Report of the Directors, the statement of account, and the auditor's report thereon were unanimously adopted, and the usual proceedings, including the re-election of retiring Directors and Auditors, votes of thanks, &c., brought the meeting to a close.

WHITTINGTON LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Chief Office:—37, Moorgate-street, London.
Branch Office:—59, Piccadilly, Manchester.

TRUSTEES.

Thomas Brassey, Esq., Great George-street, Westminster.
Thomas Horatio Harris, Esq., Finsbury and Woodford.
Thomas Lambert, Esq., Short-street, Lambeth.

DIRECTORS.

Chairman—Thomas Horatio Harris, Esq., Finsbury and Woodford.

Alfred T. Bowser, Esq., Cromwell House, Hackney.
John Cook, Esq., Cambridge Heath.
Philip Crellin, jun., Esq., 11, Clement's-lane, E.C.
James Page, Esq., Nottingham.
J. Ebenezer Saunders, Esq., F.G.S., Finsbury-circus.
Edward Swift Stillwell, Esq., 25, Barbican.
John Carvell Williams, Esq., 2, Serjeants'-inn.

MODERATE RATES of Premiums—especially for young lives. BONUSES have been declared in 1860, 1863, and 1866. POLICIES made payable during lifetime.

INVALID AND SECOND-CLASS LIVES insured on a new principle.

ALFRED T. BOWSER, Manager.

LONDON and SUBURBAN MUTUAL BUILDING-SOCIETY.

Enrolled in 1855, pursuant to Act of Parliament.

SHARES, £25 each, may be paid in one sum, or by Monthly Subscription of 5s. per share.

INVESTING MEMBERS receive 5 per cent. Interest, and Share of Surplus Profits.

MONEY ADVANCED on MORTGAGE without premium for any term of years.

JONATHAN TAYLOR, Secretary.

Offices:—107A, FENCHURCH STREET, E.C.

LONDON and SUBURBAN LAND and BUILDING COMPANY (Limited).

Offices—No. 107A, Fenchurch-street, E.C.

Money received on DEPOSIT at FOUR per Cent. INTEREST, payable on short notice.

FIVE per Cent. allowed on sums of £100 and upwards if deposited for not less than one year certain.

JONATHAN TAYLOR, Secretary.

METROPOLITAN DRINKING FOUNTAIN and CATTLE-TROUGH ASSOCIATION.

116 fountains and 95 troughs for animals have been erected and are kept in repair and supplied with water by this Society. The Committee are urgently in need of funds to enable them to sustain and extend their work, and they earnestly appeal for help to all who are anxious to promote habits of temperance or to alleviate the sufferings which are experienced by horses, dogs, sheep, and oxen in the streets of London from thirst.

JOHN LEE, Secretary.

Office, 1, Shorter's-court, Throgmorton-street, E.C.

Bankers, Messrs. Ransom, Bouverie, and Co., 1, Pall Mall East, S.W., and Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, Tritton, Twells, and Co., 54, Lombard-street.

FRENCH MUSLINS, new and beautiful, including Chintzes, all fast colours, and at one price—6s. 9d. the full dress. This price for the finest muslin may appear incredible; but 'tis no fiction.

HARVEY & CO.,

Lambeth House, Westminster Bridge, S.E.

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